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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-122
Monday
25 June 1990

Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-90-122 *25 June 1990*

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Spanish TV Interviews Perez, Menem, Navarro

PA2406163490

[Editorial Report] Madrid TVE Canal America Television in Spanish at 2130 GMT on 10 June broadcasts live from its studios the 90-minute "Punto y Aparte" program featuring Colombian 19 April Movement [M-19] leader Antonio Navarro Wolff, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Argentine President Carlos Menem, and French sociology professor Alain Touraine, with an unidentified host and moderator. Perez is interviewed by telephone from Madrid, Spain, where he is on a visit, and Menem from Milan, Italy, where he is watching the current World Cup games.

The moderator opens the program noting that its focus is summed up in its name, "The Risk That Latin America Will Be Forgotten." He then presents his guests, beginning with Navarro. He recounts the M-19's most outstanding actions as a guerrilla movement and notes that three months ago the M-19 laid down its weapons and joined the country's political life, its top leader and presidential candiate Carlos Pizarro was murdered, and it then garnered almost 13 percent of the votes with Navarro as presidential candidate. He asks Navarro to explain why the M-19 decided to lay down its weapons and whether the decision is irreversible. Navarro responds that the M-19's decision was like that of Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortes, who "burned his ships behind him when he reached Mexico. We laid down our weapons and burned them too, because they were melted down."

Turning to Touraine, the moderator asks him if the latest developments in East Europe may hurt Latin America's chances for development. Touraine notes that Latin America is "threatened by events which have occurred for at least the last 10 years," rather than those which have occurred recently in East Europe, adding that Latin America actually registered positive growth for 50 years before the area began to deteriorate in 1980.

The moderator then introduces Argentine President Carlos Menem, who participates in the show via satellite, and asks him if Argentina can ever return to the past, its golden years. Referring to the last 10 years, Menem answers that "Argentina will never return to the past," but he also emphasizes that the country is capable of a recovery given its many natural and human resources.

The moderator then asks Menem if the military can return to power through a military coup or otherwise. Menem says he "rules out this possibility" and adds that the coups are a thing of the past. The moderator then refers to the plans to reprivatize certain enterprises and asks if this means that the Argentine state does not function, to which Menem responds that "the state no longer functions as a business" because only a few get rich and because the state "facilitated all kinds of subsidies and privileges which have resulted in the current situation."

When asked about his intentions to declare corruption a crime against the homeland, Menem says he "wants to end a long and sad story in Argentina, meaning the illegal acquisition of riches" in the public and private sector, and the Argentine people support this idea. Menem also answers a question about the agreement which was recently signed with the IMF and says: "This shows that Argentina is on the right track and trust has been renewed both in the country and abroad, which is very positive."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is then introduced and the moderator asks him about the agreement which Venezuela recently signed with Spain. Perez says that Mexico and Argentina have signed the same kind of agreement with Spain, so Venezuela is the third country to do so. He stresses that "it is not the result of his friendship with Felipe Gonzalez." Perez adds that, in his opinion, Latin America will not be affected by the events in East Europe.

Talking about the violent incidents which occurred early in his administration, when the Venezuelan Government accepted the IMF's conditions and the people protested, Perez explains that "the events occurred 15 days after he assumed power and they did not affect the government," because they were the result of "social problems which had afflicted the country for eight years." The president says that "the situation has changed," although not considerably, because his government is implementing a series of adjustments to improve the situation.

Touraine then comments on the latest changes in the continent and emphasizes its need to build competitive industries. Perez says that this is partly true, but it is also necessary to recall that the prices of Latin American products have dropped considerably, so the world needs "a new international economic order" and Latin America "needs new resources" to achieve its growth.

Menem also reviews the issue and states that foreign debt is certainly a heavy burden, but the worst is "the lack of investments and of the possibility of marketing" Latin American products "on an equal basis with other products at an international level." Talking specifically about Argentina's foreign debt, the president emphasizes that "the country had been paying its foreign debt until two years ago, but things only got worse." However, he says, "the situation is even worse" now because of "the lack of growth, which, in turn, is brought about by the lack of investments," so creditors should give Argentina the chance to create wealth and thus be able to fulfill its international pledges, because "Argentina intends to honor its debts."

Navarro assesses the economic situation in Colombia and readily agrees that a new international economic order is essential, but he says that "new internal relations and a political and social renewal" are also necessary in

Latin America. The M-19 leader adds that his organization's struggle was "mainly aimed against social injustice, and this is one of the reasons" for its subsequent participation in politics.

Touraine observes that Latin American problems cannot be separated from the world's problems, and a country cannot be expected to recover its strength while burdened with foreign debt. He also says that Venezuela was not capable of building a modern industry, despite its bonanza with the oil production.

The moderator asks Perez to comment on this, and he says that Touraine's comment "is biased and this is a problem we have with the Western World," which has a "poor" idea about Latin American countries because it is presumed that they "lack the ability to coexist democratically and achieve growth with social justice." Perez then focuses on the economic crisis caused by the drop in prices and says that there have been changes and the countries "need resources," because Latin American society is "capable of defending itself." Furthermore, the president notes, "the IMF proposal was absurd," because a country cannot pay its debt and make any adjustments if it does not have the possibility of achieving growth.

Menem notes that Argentina is trying to achieve growth "through agreements with other countries on this continent and Europe." He again refers to the events in East Europe and rules out the possibility that they may affect Latin America. The president also refers to the need for capital and says that "there is no difference between national and foreign capital because they both seek nations which offer security and stability."

The moderator then says farewell to Menem and asks Touraine and Perez to review again the issue of Latin America's need for capital, trust, and better conditions for paying their debt. Touraine emphasizes that developing countries "must learn to share responsibilities" and redistribute the use of their capital to avoid dependence. Perez cuts in and says the region must always look toward the future, and the agreements signed with Spain are part of the efforts in this direction.

The program concludes with a review of the drug problem, the guerrilla groups' struggle, and the violence in Colombia. Navarro blames the drug traffickers and extreme right-wing groups for the crisis, and denies the reports about links between the M-19 and drug traffickers.

SELA To Submit Proposal for Debt Reduction

PA2306023090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2113 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Caracas, 22 June (DPA)— Latin American ministers, while meeting in Caracas, have agreed to present a proposal to drastically reduce the region's foreign debt to the presidents of the seven western powers, known as the Group of Seven [G-7].

The first ministerial conference on foreign debt of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) entrusted Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez to submit the proposal to U.S. President George Bush. According to Venezuelan Finance Minister Roberto Pocaterra, Perez will send the document to his U.S. colleague so it can be discussed by the Group of Seven. The presidents of the FRG, Canada, the U.S., France, Italy, the UK, and Japan will attend the annual summit to be held in Houston, Texas on 11 July.

The proposal, approved after 18 months of debates and two technical conferences, includes a "significant" reduction of the net transfer of resources for the payment of the debt, establishes a ceiling for interest rates, and determines that debts be considered according to the type of creditor. Four types of creditors are involved in the Latin American debt, which SELA estimates to be $440 billion. These are: private banks; multilateral financial organizations such as the World Bank; governments; and the Latin American countries themselves. The region transfers $40 billion annually to service the debt.

Despite the detailed technical debates that were held previously, a last-minute review of the final document delayed the end of the two-day meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

Perez' briefing to the seven powers on the foreign debt is part of a Latin American and Caribbean action plan. This plan also includes the establishment of an open ministerial committee to promote proposals before international forums and creditors. However, Pocaterra and other participants noted that this initiative is merely a framework of reference for the "country by country" renegotiation processes. This was one of the points of dissension in the proposal for a ministerial committee because countries like Mexico and Costa Rica have already established renegotiations within the framework of the Brady Plan, and Venezuela has already agreed on a list of terms with its creditors.

The ministerial meeting, which began yesterday, was preceded by an international symposium. Attending the symposium were, among others, former Italian head of state Bettino Craxi; the UN secretary general commissioner for the foreign debt problem; and William Rhodes, vice president of Citicorp—one of the chief creditor banks.

Craxi and Rhodes stressed that creditor countries should be willing to receive "fresh money" to finance the renegotiation process. Craxi was skeptical about the proposal that the banks agree to reduce transferences to service the debt. However, Miguel Angel Gurria, the chief negotiator of the Mexican foreign debt, did not rule out that possibility if investments and the repatriation of capital rise simultaneously. Gurria supported "protecting" the multilateral organizations that in the near future could be the sole source of financing for the region. The SELA proposals contemplate arrangements according to the type of creditor.

Regarding the private banks, the ministers propose: a reduction in the nominal value of the principal, bearing in mind its quotation in the secondary market of only 27.5 percent in November 1989; the issuance of titles for the discounted value of the debt with terms up to 35 years and set interest rates that are lower than the current ones and that reflect the payment capacity of each country; and a modification of the banking regulations of the creditor countries.

Regarding the governments, the ministers propose: great flexibility with the Paris Club; partial condoning of the debts; and longer rates of disbursements.

Regarding multilateral financial institutions, the ministers propose: a modification of the current policy of the institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, so they will become the "promoters of development;" a reduction in the conditions for financial aid; and more flexibility with the loans.

Regarding the intra-Latin American debt, which ranges from $12 million to $15 million, the ministers propose: a reduction in the level of the debt; a strengthening of the compensated exchange and conversion programs; and other actions.

Forms 11-Country Debt Committee

PA2506001190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1747 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Caracas, 23 Jun (EFE)—Uruguayan Carlos Perez del Castillo, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), announced at a news conference today that Latin America and the Caribbean have agreed to form an 11-country ministerial committee to coordinate action to face the region's $437 billion foreign debt. Perez del Castillo said that the decision to form the committee was made during a regional conference on foreign debt that ended in Caracas last night. The conference was attended by finance and treasury ministers and central bank presidents from the 26 SELA member countries.

The coordinating committee consists of representatives from Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Peru, and Guyana. The committee's main objective is to confront debtors in a joint manner within the framework of the proposal presented by Latin America and the Caribbean for the foreign debt problem, he added.

The regional conference approved SELA's proposal to solve the debt problem. The proposal's main point is to obtain a 75-percent reduction in the net capital that Latin America and the Caribbean transfer to creditor countries to service the debt. Last year, the area's debtor countries transferred $40 billion to developed countries to service their debts, Perez del Castillo said. A 25-percent reduction in capital flow would mean a reduction of $10 billion per year, SELA's permanent secretary added.

The Latin American proposal maintains that the regional foreign debt problem will not be solved without a substantial reduction of the debt and debt service. The document explains that the region urgently needs to get back on the road to social and economic development and reach the six-percent growth rate it had during the sixties. The countries in the region will present negotiation formulas according to the different type of creditors—private banks, multilateral organizations, or governments.

Perez del Castillo stated that the conditions established for negotiation with private banks are that the nominal value of the debt's principle be reduced, that interest rates be reduced to less than the current rates, and that all long-term and medium-term debt be replaced with bonds having a maturity date of at least 35 years. The proposal for debt with multilateral organizations is that the negative flow of resources, amounting to $7 billion, be eliminated and that payment deadlines be extended.

Perez del Castillo noted that organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Development Bank, should return to their original functions of promoting development and stop acting as simple profit-making commercial organizations. Debt with developed countries should be geared to reduce the flow of resources from the area and to find formulas to get creditors to assign new resources to debtor countries.

The regional proposal also upholds that there be a substantial reduction of the debt and that excessive conditions not be imposed when refinancing the debt. Perez del Catillo explained that the ministerial committee will follow each country's debt negotiations and present a report to SELA's Latin American Council that is to meet in September. He noted that the conference assigned Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to submit the proposal to the Group of Seven (G-7) industralized nations. The Venezuelan president is to decide which is the most effective means to present the Latin American proposal so it may be studied at the G-7 meeting to be held in Houston, Texas in July.

Perez del Castillo emphasized that the decision by the Latin American and Caribbean conference is an important step in the concerted effort to solve common problems. He ended the news conferences by pointing out that the region's consensus on the debt problem is an expression of support for SELA's work as an organization that promotes unity and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

More on Aladi Reduction of Duty Barriers

PY2106190290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0227 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jun (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today stressed the significance of the agreement on a regional preferential tariff that was signed today at the Latin American

Integration Association [Aladi] headquarters in Montevideo. This agreement will help increase trade among Latin American countries.

Cavallo said the measures "will contribute to quickly improving Latin American trade, which was affected by the crisis that confronted those countries in the past decade." He added that the current exchange, which stands at around $15 billion, could be increased to $20 billion.

In statements made at Government House, Cavallo said that the agreement signed by the 11 Aladi countries members is proof that "we have started to move toward the creation of a free trade zone."

According to the document, the Aladi members decided to mutually reduce preferential tariffs by 20 percent. This decision involves a 100-percent reduction in the level of so-called regional preferential tariffs. Cavallo said that "the 20-percent reduction will be adopted by Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil, which are the countries with the highest level of relative development. The other Aladi members will adopt other tariff percentages according to their own development level."

The agreement, which will be in force as of August, establishes that any nontariff restrictions will not be applied to goods included in the regional preferential tariff. It also provides for the reduction by 20 percent of the lists of products not benefited by these measures.

Cavallo said that it was decided to hold a meeting in the first quarter of 1991 to assess implementation of the preferential tariff system. In the meeting "we will propose a full program with dates and quantitative goals aimed at creating a free commerce area."

Joint Jamaica-Suriname Commission Established

FL2206135290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1336 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 22, CANA—A Jamaica-Suriname joint commission has been established to explore areas of further cooperation between both countries in areas including trade. Suriname's foreign minister, Edwin Sedoc, who has just ended a three-day official visit here, listed agriculture, fishery, energy and mining, trade, and cultural exchanges as some of the areas in which opportunities were being explored.

Sedoc told a press conference just before leaving for home that the visit was important in strengthening the relations between Jamaica and Suriname and said it was important to continue consultations to promote and further these relations. He extended an invitation to Jamaica's Foreign Minister David Coore to visit Suriname.

On Suriname's bid for membership in the Caribbean Community [Caricom], Sedoc said his government was meeting with Caricom officials to review the terms of reference. Coore, when asked about the Community's feelings on Suriname's request for membership, said there was a strong sentiment among Caricom members for the deepening and strenghtening of relations within the region. He said he anticipated no problems with Suriname's application for Caricom membership. Suriname has observer status within the regional body.

Cuba

'Informal Break' in Trade With Czechoslovakia Noted

LD2306074690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0503 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Havana, 23 Jun (TANJUG)—Cuba has stopped its deliveries of sugar, nickel and other products to Czechoslovakia in response to the same measure applied by the Prague government a short time ago, it was informally learned here. According to Eastern European diplomatic sources in Cuba, involved is an informal break of commercial ties between the two countries.

So far, this bit of news has not been commented on in official Cuban circles, and the local press has not registered the stoppage of deliveries of Czechoslovak-made industrial and food-processed and other goods to Cuba.

Earlier this month, the two countries officials came to terms on continuing trade, scientific and technological cooperation in spite of an undefined way of payment. Czechoslovakia has discontinued its further deliveries of goods to Cuba until its Caribbean partner repays some 350 million rubles in debts.

Since replacements in Czechoslovakia's top circles, relations between Havana and Prague go on by inertia of the times past, but prospects are small for the two countries to find to find out political and economic motives for their so-far cooperation to continue. Just now, Czechoslovakia has no ambassador in Havana, the so-far mission chief, Stanislav Svoboda, having been recently called back on his ending his regular term of office.

Communist Party on Call for Fourth Congress

Part 1

FL2306120190 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1009 GMT 23 Jun 90

["Agreement" reached by the Communist Party, PCC, Politburo on the discussion process for the call to the Fourth PCC Congress, Part 1]

[Text] The call for the Fourth PCC Congress has been received favorably and has aroused broad expectations in the Party and among the people. The continuity we give to this positive moment will depend on the quality with which this discussion is carried out and, above all, the establishment of a firm starting point for the preparatory work of the congress. The fundamental role in this process is the responsibility of the cadres and Party members.

The importance of this document is precisely that it is a preview of the main topics which can be foreseen now in the agenda of the referred event which, at the same time, are some of the fundamental problems of our society's development. The meetings in which the call will be discussed will be thousands of platforms in which we will be able to take the offensive to present in-depth arguments of our reasoning and show how in the middle of exceptionally complex, uncertain, and risky conditions, our political leadership follows a revolutionary path and encourages the entire people in a heroic effort which should guarantee our survival and development, even in the most adverse circumstances.

Thus, we are offered an excellent opportunity to face once more the confusion of ideas provoked by the East Europe disaster and by the events taking place in the Soviet Union which the imperialist propaganda has taken advantage of to denigrate socialism and launch against Cuba an unprecedented ideological and psychological bombardment. We can stress how—precisely thanks to the revolution and the socialist option along with the economic and social disaster which Latin America as a whole is suffering, including countries with enormous natural resources and a certain degree of industrial development—Cuba has today—as prestigious international organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA] recognize—the best situation in this part of the hemisphere.

Even in the economic field, our country withstood better the unprecedented crisis Latin America suffered in the last decade. The ECLA report—as was noted in an article published in the Venezuelan press—says that between 1980 and 1990, per capita production increased in Cuba more than in the rest of the area's countries and surpassing countries which, despite certain macroeconomic results, are characterized by the deep polarization of wealth and social injustice; while in the rest of the area, stagnation prevailed as a rule or a painful recession occurred in the midst of terrible conditions of inflation, unemployment, abandonment, and marginality.

This data, despite its overwhelming force, only expresses one aspect of the enormous advantage our social regime represents. Other extremely important qualitative values would have to be added to the absolute figures such as the social justice level in Cuba, the equal distribution of wealth, the equality of rights for all citizens, and the continuous effort to increase the efficiency of services in education, health, and social security, the protection of children, the women's situation, the virtually universal employment opportunities, and many more factors, which along with the complete respect for the human being's dignity places our society at the vanguard of progress and social development in the Third World, and in many areas, above U.S. society, and other highly industrialized countries.

On the other hand, when we talk about our advances, we not only refer to those that have a political and social content. In the economic field, we have changed the simple growth concepts that are sometimes obtained by increasing raw materials imports and semimanufactured goods or by materializing productions that are not strategic for the economic and social future of the country to emphasize investments and productions that guarantee a true and solid development in the two areas. In other

words, we pay fundamental attention not to how much growth but what type of growth their is.

In the midst of enormous limitations of resources, our country is now working tenaciously to create an efficient and productive economy. A solid infrastructure is being created in water resources, installations, communications, and technology for livestock-agricultural production.

The country maintains a steady pace in its energy program. Industrial and economic investments are based on the idea of maximizing the limited available resources in foreign currency and are geared to finding true solutions to national development. There is practically no important area of economic or social life that does not have a serious and well-thought-out program to ensure short, medium, and long-term solutions.

One of the highest and most promising expressions of this advance can now be found in the scientific sphere. A true explosion of knowledge and application of vanguard fields is taking place, such as in genetic engineering and biotechnology. This is rapidly translated into new possibilities of production and exports of medicines, vaccines, and medical equipment. New developments in robotics, electronics, and nuclear technology are taking place with the same speed.

The boost of tourism construction is developing. In this area, our country has colossal and insurmountable non-exploited natural resources which can yield considerable income for other development projects. The soundness and stability of the country, along with an intelligent policy, attract the confidence of foreign investors and open a broad field for cooperation in the form of joint enterprises in this area and in other fields which will generate exports and will help to overcome our foreign resources limitations for development.

This absolutely does not contradict our socialist system. On the contrary, it favors a more accelerated utilization of potential wealth. The country lacks enough technology and resources to exploit on its own at this time. It is worth adding that it is precisely socialism what gives Cuba privileged conditions to launch this and other forms of cooperation and economic integration with Latin America. Far from being an obstacle to its links in this sphere with countries with different social regimes, socialist production relations, with their planned nature and the existence of a strong state economy, favor our country's ability to dynamically advance in the search for integration with Latin America, a historic process on which the future of our continent undoubtedly depends.

This means that there is no antagonic contradiction either for the development of political and diplomatic relations among our countries or for the long-term establishment of normal and mutually-beneficial coexistence ties. In this way, the privilege socialism entails in the possibility of programming development has in Cuba an eloquent and practical confirmation. Thanks to it, the country can maximize resources and face extremely acute situations such as the one we have suffered for years in the financial field because of the aforementioned deficit of convertible currency.

These realities can be summed up with the fact that our country has been able to solve problems in 30 years which Latin America has not been able to solve in 200 years. Many countries in the continent are experiencing at this time a dramatic situation, with no apparent way out. They do not know what will happen or how to face the challenge of the next few years.

Cuba, in turn, has solid foundations and a clear program to continue advancing steadily in all the fundamental directions, although the unusual developing international circumstances also present us with uncertainty and true dangers. This process should be used by us to go deeply into the country's real economic situation, explain its causes, and clarify any simplistic or confused point of view that may arise.

Intense work has been done in rectifying mistakes and negative tendencies over the last four years. Logically, this effort focused first on the economic sphere where there were serious deficiencies as well as subjective deformations related to economistic currents, mistaken concepts on ways to find efficiency and productive development, blind belief in the spontaneity of economic mechanisms, the abandonment of valid experiences that had been adjusted to our realities, such as the minibrigades, and disorganization and lack of control. As is known, these deformations were related to the copying of foreign models when we set about to establish the direction and planning of the economy system. Mediocre views and practices were created in its application in the entire country's economic activities. Other deficiencies and mistakes were incorporated to this process. We were absolutely responsible for them.

Now, a comprehensive analysis of these problems cannot ignore or underestimate the real objective factors in the country's economic development which have been beyond the reach of our abilities and will. Cuba belongs to the underdeveloped world which inherited a neocolonial economy, highly dependent on foreign trade; and, therefore, it is subject to the devastating effects of the crisis which has been hitting Third World countries with devastating violence for years. We are also exposed to the consequences of the foreign debt, unequal trade, dumping, and the monetary manipulations of capitalism in part of our economy.

We worked and struggled for 30 years under the conditions of a fierce imperialist blockade. The United States viciously follows each one of our trade operations, while our economy has been disconnected from its markets and its natural context formed during hundreds of years. We have suffered all types of sabotage, attacks, and hostilities. We have not been able to remove ourselves from the negative effects of the problems which have been present in the economies of socialist countries—which have been our main allies—such as technological

backwardness, gigantic investments, organizational ideas, and bureaucratic and inefficient systems.

During the last few years, the Party and the people have made an enormous effort to basically reorient the country onto a correct path. Progress has been made and we should continue working systematically in creating the concepts and principles on which we can base our model of organization and the direction of the economy in line with the goals of the revolution and our economic and social development level.

In this way, the conditions for carrying out the political and institutional improvement of Cuban society have been created. It is important to stress the exceptional opportunity offered to us to be able to improve our political system in an orderly and responsible fashion, without any type of haste or improvisation, considering the rich experience we have accumulated and other countries' experiences—positive and negative ones—sparing us from mistakes which could be felt in the future, and take on that task now with the guidance of the historic leadership of the revolution at a time when it is reaching the peak of its maturity and wisdom.

The text of the document discusses the exceptionally difficult and dangerous juncture the revolution is facing today. Thus, the analysis of the call offers us a good opportunity once more to explain the current coincidence of the historic turning back in East Europe and the internal difficulties the Soviet Union is going through which objectively modifies the world's balance of power in favor of imperialism and encourages the aggressive boldness of the U.S. Government.

We cannot ignore that under these circumstances our people face very serious risks. Uncertainty is stressed regarding the resources we can receive from the Soviet Union and, consequently, the real possibility that we may have to go at any time to what has been called the special period in times of peace. The country could be headed toward an effort for survival which could change all our plans and projects in a short period of time. The enemy does not ignore this possibility. Therefore, defense preparedness cannot be neglected for an instant. With deep realism, with feet set firmly on the ground, we have to know how to sustain our development strategy in any situation that occurs, what our true priorities are at any time, what means we have, and which economic and social tasks we cannot stop fulfilling.

It is within this framework that the firm will of the Party's leadership to advance the changes in favor of the internal perfecting of society fit, in line with our principles and experiences, and with the goal of finding legitimate responses to the wishes of the people regarding the improvement of economic activities, the elimination of bureaucratic mechanisms, and other subjective deficiencies in the services for the population, and the more and more democratic functioning of the political and state institutions.

The call clears all confusion that our firmness in the defense of socialism could be associated with a closed or resistant position in analyzing the logical changes to which the conditions in the political life of the country have matured. This has marked significance for the political and ideological debate and for the struggle against the strengthened campaign of our enemies at the international level. At the same time, we should rule out any illusion in the sense that the improvement to which we aspire in the work of our political, mass, and state institutions will necessarily be expressed in greater numbers of short-term material solutions. To expect this is to not know the nature of our economic difficulties. However, undoubtedly this perfecting should help increase economic efficiency in the medium and long-term and to explain and understand problems better.

What distinguishes the call in a singular way is not the expectation of pre-established solutions for the far-reaching matters included in it, but its presentaiton of a conceptual approximation, establishment of a framework for analysis, setting basic goals, and from them, opening space for a broad discussion on how to approach concrete changes, determine their scope, and decide how to carry them out.

Therefore, the Party, in contrast with other times, is not only calling on us to learn about a document, to support it, or debate its application in a specific place, but it is summoning all its members, all organizations, and the people to reflect on society as a whole and concentrate on the analysis of the defects and insufficiencies which, in one way or another, are made evident in the deepening of a new stage of the rectification process and the political and institutional perfecting of the nation in its broadest sense. This is what is new. This is why it is extremely important for the Party to be prepared to guide this great popular consultation with a clear sense of what our course is and what the goals of the process we are sponsoring are.

The first experiences of the analysis of the call showed the concern of some Party leaders and cadres to learn about the limits of the debate. Those limits, regarding the concrete contents and the reach of the proposals cannot, of course, be set beforehand. The concrete response to each problem cannot be found in the text, either. The point of the discussion is precisely to promote views that are based on the experience of the Party members and the people with the purpose of learning about those disatisfactions and concerns that are subject to a clarification or to consider alternatives to improve our work.

Consequently, the document attempts to promote a consensus that has to result from the discussion itself, from the confrontation of ideas, and the enlightening that it should result in. The main thing is for the Party to be clear in the unrelinquishing values we defend and that it is in the position to argue and discuss its views in depth. For example, the need is obvious to use this process to reaffirm the fundamental lines and principles which have inspired the rectification in the economy, such as the role of the conscious political leadership in the face of the false idea of the spontaneous efficiency of

the economic mechanisms, the combination of centralized planning with the creation of reserves which would allow us to quickly take advantage of the new possibilities that may arise, the deepening concept of how to reach true development and not artificial growth, the extraordinary experience of the new forms of organization of the work force, the definition of an enterprise system based on the socialist principle of compensation and in the communist dedication to work, the application of science and technology, the most efficient organization of production and services, and the principle that the interests of the nation as a whole should always prevail over any enterprise's or sector's interest.

Part 2

FL2306162890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1108 GMT 23 Jun 90

["Agreement" reached by the Communist Party [PCC] Politburo on the discussion process for the call to the Fourth PCC Congress, Part 2]

[Text] An unavoidable value that is not open to question is, of course, the socialist option as a historic determination of the Cuban people, which is the result of its struggles since the last century and an advanced program of social justice. In our particular conditions, it indissolubly involves the principles of the revolution, socialism, and national independence. Likewise, we openly reaffirm the idea of a sole, Marti-style, Marxist-Leninist Party which is organized and operates on the basis of democratic centralism, in its broadest sense, and carries out the leadership role through example, the permanent tie with the people, and the deep understanding of its responsibilities to the entire society.

This debate gives us a magnificent opportunity to stress the idea that we cannot, on behalf of antidogmatism and the elimination of socialism's mistakes, accept the new reactionary dogma that there is no democracy and renovation without multiple parties.

In Cuba, the multiple-party system was precisely the one used by imperialism to apply its neocolonialist dominance, divide the country, loot it, and impose on the people corrupt regimes and undemocratic tyrannies. The unity in a single Party, fruit of the revolution, was what brought us democracy, the true participation of the citizenry in all matters, complete national sovereignty, and the political and moral cohesion of the people. The survival of the country and the revolution depends on that unity. A blocked, threatened, and harassed country such as ours would make a tragic and definite mistake if it divides its forces, because in our case, there is only room for two fundamental parties—that of the revolution and the counterrevolution.

Therefore, we maintain the view of perfecting our socialist revolutionary democracy by freeing it from formalism, making it more and more real and effective through firm class and patriotic positions without the slightest concession to the enemies of our people or the hypocrisy and fallacy of bourgeois institutions.

Coinciding also with this purpose is the determination to defend above all the national and revolutionary unity of the people, strengthen it to the maximum, and struggle in a decisive and practical manner for the elimination of any residue of inequality or discrimination which could exist in the heart of society.

In order to preserve these values and essential principles, and precisely with the interest of preserving them, we should recognize the existence of a sufficiently broad space to discuss the subjects related to perfecting the political life of the country, the work of state institutions, culture and information, and the development of our theoretical thinking, especially in the field of social sciences. A fundamental point of this effort is to reaffirm the original strength of the Cuban revolution, its indigenous nature, its creative tradition, and the ability that has always distinguished it to find new solutions to problems and promote fresh ideas, in line with the reality of our development and our people's idiosyncracy.

Logically, the Party, with its level of maturity, development, and experience, is the first to submit to analysis its structures, methods, and working styles. It is especially important for the work of the Party to identify and exclude intelligently all those practices invented by ourselves or, at times, copied from others' experiences which could give way to formalisms, dogmatisms, divorce from the masses, bureaucratism, and other negative phenomena.

Likewise, there is a need to discover, in order to eliminate them, those impractical ideas which were justified at the time they were implemented but that have become obsolete. This involves an in-depth analysis that should have the virtue of separating all those valid experiences accumulated by the Party in these last three decades, always susceptible to enrichment, which should essentially be ratified, and everything that can and should be submitted to more or less substantial changes.

It is obvious that if we talk of rectification we cannot assume the uncompromising defense of each and every one of the current ways of doing things in the same way that we cannot sponsor superficial measures or measures lacking the essential reflection. Regarding the process of discussion of the call, we also need to keep in mind that we do not expect that it will offer us final solutions or alternatives, either in the work of the Party or any other field. We hope to gather different ideas, suggestions, and points of views that can later be matured and enriched.

Regarding the Party, the debate that is being promoted now has as its essential goal the finding of formulas that make its work more efficient in leading our society. To this effect, their specific contents should be determined more accurately. A core aspect of this is the separation of state and government functions, the political and ideologic work, and the economic and administrative work

proper. Closely related to this is the need for an examination of the Party's structure and methods and styles of work. The changes in the structure of the nuclei implemented relatively a short time ago constitutes a positive experience in which we should go deeper within the framework of this process.

Regarding the internal functioning of the Party, the debate can include any aspect such as the growth policy, the types of income, the methods to establish candidacies, and the election of leadership organs and organizations with the clear sense of finding more democratic alternatives, ensuring that the cadres and leaders enjoy the greatest support of the members, not only because of their trust in the good judgment of the higher-level organizations but because of the real participation that is guaranteed in the decision-making.

Regarding the procedures establishing candidacies and voting, the presence of comrades with possibilities of carrying out active political work at the level where they should do their work should be ensured in the appropriate organizations. It is also necessary that the functioning mechanisms guarantee that these elective organizations can fully carry out their functions so that they can fulfill their assigned leadership and control role and assure their leading role. The experience obtained in some municipalities by incorporating municipal committee members in work commissions is a useful experience to consider in these reflections.

Regarding the ideological work, we have to consider the real world in which we live, where an intense and complex confrontation of ideas is developing from which we are not and cannot be excluded. That is reflected in our national media through the material, political, social, cultural, and educational realities in the country in the many positive aspects of the revolutionary work as well as in its limitations and deficiencies.

Under these circumstances, it is very important that the discussions that are sometimes being held now outside the institutions of Cuban society, including the Party itself, are taken into the midst of the discussions. In this way, their influence can become more efficient and real. This is the best way we have to learn which views are circulating among the people, the various views of different social areas, and how to adequately channel them.

The media has an important role in all these efforts, considering it is a vehicle of the line of the Party. It will have to be not only a reflection but also promoter and guide of this debate.

An experience that is just getting started in the Party is that it has diversified the once exclusive practice of study circles in the simultaneous use of diverse forms such as lectures, roundtables, video debates, and others which are applied in each case according to the subject and the audience. This should continue to be studied, improved, and expanded.

Regarding the Union of Young Communists [UJC], the vital thing is to examine its work by understanding the specific nature of the organization. The work of the UJC has to include matters that correspond to the nature of its tasks without exactly duplicating the structures and organizational criteria applied by the Party, but obviously considering this experience to include every valid thing within its specific area of work.

For their part, mass, student, and social organizations can contribute a lot by eliminating formalisms, avoiding duplication, renovating on their own the composition and adequacy of their cadres, and streamlining their work in accordance with the ever-changing national and international reality.

Logically, this process should be used to examine the concrete experiences we already have which have come out of the rectification process in the economy such as the various measures implemented to increase discipline and better use the labor force, attention to the needs of workers, the progress of the various development programs, and the formulas that have been implemented experimentally in a group of enterprises of the country along with other studies and ideas aimed at finding the most adequate organizational and direction model of the economy.

The improvement of the work of the People's Government also opens the possibility of finding ways to make our democratic institutions even more representative, encourage a greater and truer participation of the people in them, and give more authority to the delegates and assemblies. In this field, which depends so much on the true availability of resources, it is essential that the discussion take place without promoting false illusions and without losing sight of the fact that we have and will continue to have serious restrictions that put objective limits to our ability to solve problems.

The People's Government assemblies in each of its levels will have to become forums where the priorities of economic and social development of the territory involved are discussed using the views of the delegates as representatives of the people so that their responsibility is completely exercised by inspecting and making demands of administration organizations and they give feedback to the government's leadership as each one of the programs are carried out with the objectivity that their close relation with the grassroots enables them to have.

In the meantime, these representatives receive information and arguments on the comprehensive development strategy of the area, their outlook, and limitations.

This is a very important way to understand the masses and their mobilization for the tasks that demand a greater effort. The cadre policy is another aspect of special significance that can be enriched a lot with the experience and the proposals that come up from those consultations.

In the struggle for the elimination of the last traces of discrimination, those related to followers of various religious beliefs will undoubtedly attract the concerns and interest of many people. There is an attempt to implement a policy that is in line with the ideas presented by Comrade Fidel based on the ideas expressed years ago in his travels through Latin America and the Caribbean on the strategic alliance between Marxists and Christians, the need to eliminate all trace of discrimination, and, reiterating as an essential matter, the purpose of adding to the revolutionary process with full participation rights, aside from their religious faith, no matter their denomination, all those people identified with our socialist building program who are willing to defend the fatherland.

Undoubtedly, great attention will be paid to the aspects related to the creative development of our ideas, to the study of the history of the nation and of America, the work with the new generations, in sum, all the other subjects related to the political, cultural, and moral perfecting of our society.

Our Party has to take into account that the analysis of the call to the Fourth PCC Congress has a dual function. On the one hand, it constitutes a real consultation in which different points of views can be expressed; on the other, it involves a process of political clarification inasmuch as our attitude cannot be passive. We should not limit ourselves to listening to the proposals made; it is rather a dialogue in which different ideas will be discussed and the most convincing and better defended and argued will prevail.

For this reason, the quality of the meetings that may take place cannot be measured, as we have erroneously done in the past, by the unanimity achieved or by the absence of suggestions which could be considered problematic or divergent. It is necessary to explain in these meetings that the discussion of the call reaffirms in our country the employment of the revolutionary method of democratic consultation in all the decisions vital to the people. It should be understood that we are now only at a preliminary stage.

The call places a considerable number of problems under public consideration. Alternatives should come up from their discussions. Once they are assessed, they will be followed-up in later consultations. That is, we are at the beginning of a perfecting process of the political and institutional life of society which will take years of work and will require a steady dialogue between the Party and the people.

An assessment of this effort will enable us to learn much more objectively which are the true moods, opinions, and concerns existing in the country. We should not lament that views which could have been so far inhibited or repressed are now expressed publicly. This should give us the opportunity to discuss, contribute elements, and put an end to confusions and mistakes.

It should not surprise us either if the dominating trends in East Europe's disaster will come up in one way or another. This could take place and it would also give us the opportunity to clarify essential ideas on democracy, social justice, equality, human rights, and freedom. However, we should not go into this process with prejudices. We should go to it with an open mind, with a willingness to listen to different views, with constructive and persuasive sense.

At the same time, we cannot be naive and ignore that this analysis will not develop equally in all collectives and that there may be some in which we logically have to expect the possibility of a tense and difficult confrontation of ideas. We have to get ready to be at the level of any type of discussion presented to us. It is also essential to understand that, in any case, the authority of the Party will be given by the real ability of the person that moderates the debate to the extent that he is ready to contribute ideas and convince with information and indisputable arguments.

Therefore, as we already mentioned, the limits of the discussions cannot be set beforehand. They will be established in each specific analysis. They will be made evident by our clarity regarding the principles we should defend and our willingness to hold the debate. Obviously, this process will be a test and a very positive school for all Party leaders and cadres. This open discussion with the masses needs to encourage debate, listen patiently to all, even those who have erroneous views, and persuade with arguments. This is a true challenge to the Party's individual and collective intelligence and a learning experience which, from now on, will be more and more essential.

They will help us eliminate the practice of formal representation in events and assemblies and will force us to participate actively, to have a direct and sincere style of dialogue which we should not abandon. Our training, ability to analyze, and capabilities to get to the root of the problems through interpretation of reality and creative application of the fundamental concepts and ideas which Comrade Fidel teaches us will be measured.

We hope that the discussion of the call for the Fourth PCC Congress is translated into an in-depth look and conscious reaffirmation of our positions. We are confident that this task will clarify even more the Party's policy and its willingness to take forward seriously and steadily the changes that are needed to perfect our society. We want this process to help give all the people a more objective and precise view of the exceptional times we are living, of the ways out and solutions we can find for problems if we devote ourselves to our duties and without creating false expectations, and that it will leave a feeling of confidence and safety in the path we are following.

[Signed] PCC Central Committee Politburo.

Haiti

CEP Postpones News Conference on Electoral Law

FL2206172590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] has postponed until another day today's news conference to present the electoral law.

Events Relating to Attack Against State Council

Reaction Reported

FL2206161590 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The State Council was attacked during a meeting which it was holding with popular organizations at the Hotel Santos this morning. Two people were very seriously wounded: one of them Council member Serge Villard; the other Emmanuel Magny, a member of Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] and of the CATH, Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers. Also, a young representative of the popular organizations, Jean-Marie Montes, was killed. [passage omitted]

We must tell you that the State Council has been meeting since around noon with Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot at the National Palace. We do not yet know what is being discussed at that meeting. [passage omitted]

We must tell you that while everyone was still in shock, the hoodlums continued to strike in the capital. According to information we have received, in several different parts of the capital, such as Portail Leogane; the Marche Vallieres area; Post Marchande; and Ruelle Riviere, very near Kayanou school, at least three people were killed today, and others reportedly wounded. [passage omitted]

This attack comes at a time when there is much manuevering going on and many slogans hostile to the State Council are beginning to appear on walls both in the capital and in the provinces. Statements against the State Council are also being made by both the hardline Duvalierist sector and other sectors that are distancing themselves from the State Council because there is talk of elections. It is in this context that this attack against the State Council has occurred. [passage omitted]

[Begin Max Bourjolly, second in command of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, recording] Today, macoutes in civilian clothing and macoutes wearing khaki opened fire on a meeting the State Council was having with popular and union organizations. [passage omitted]

The PUCH notes that there is a veritable campaign going on in Haiti to bring back violence, repression, intimidation, and terrorism. The PUCH has been observing the plots of "seller out of the country" candidates against the State Council, from the time the initiative to form the Council was taken, through to the time the Council was installed, up to the present day.

For its part, Radio Liberte never loses an opportunity to say all kinds of things, air all kinds of threats, against the State Council and diverse political sectors. Daniel Narcisse has said more or less the same things.

A Radio Metropole news report on the morning of 21 June included, in connection with the Legagneur affair, statements by members of the Finance Ministry's security corps who said they were going to go out and get [y'ap mache, prann] the State Council. The attitude of these aggressors clearly shows that macoutes remain macoutes.

The Haitian people, who refuse to live under repression, fear, and anxiety, will not allow macoutes to come back on the scene. Such forms of terror and heavy-handedness are the last resort of the forces of death, the last resort of the big plunderer sharks who have been robbing the country blind for the past 33 years.

This aggression against the State Council—against the headquarters where the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC], too, holds its meetings—at a moment when there are all kinds of rumors circulating about preparations for a foreign intervention in Haiti... [changes thought] This movement of insecurity against the State Council and the many pressures we can see, pressures which serve to consecrate [words indistinct] the use of people in military uniform, appears to be a provocation aimed at the movement.... [changes thought] At everything.... [changes thought] So that there can be a brutal clash in Haiti, aimed at facilitating and justifying an intervention against the nation's sovereignty.

The Haitian people are not going to be intimidated. The forces of terror will not have the last word.

We can at present also say that the bunch of traitors crookedly wheeling and dealing to bring about a foreign intervention against the fatherland will also be frustrated, because the Haitian people will not let them get away with anything. The antidemocratic sector has taken advantage of the fact that the population's attention is fixed on the world soccer cup, and of the fact that summer vacation is near, to accomplish, or at least try to accomplish, its Machiavellian plan of getting rid of the State Council.

PUCH condemns this criminal, antinational plan. PUCH asks the judiciary and the Army to do whatever they have to do—just as they did when military thugs attacked the Haitian Armed Forces' general headquarters—to find, arrest, try in court, and punish properly the people who have committed this criminal aggression against the State Council and the AC's headquarters.

PUCH asks its sympathizers and the population of the nation's nine geographical departments to remain mobilized and await any watchword reached by consensus that might be forthcoming with a view to (?safeguarding)

what the 4 March 1990 alternative provided for, so we can stave off all the forces of death. [end recording] [passage omitted]

For its part, the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Conacom, calls on everyone, before it is too late, to rise up and mobilize to provide aid and support to the Council of State, which is in danger.

Here is what Conacom says. [passage omitted] Provisional President Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot has chosen to govern with a heavy hand, paying no attention to what the agreement says, without listening to what the State Council tells her. [passage omitted]

Conacom says: This they [not further identified] cannot call an ordinary incident. Nor can they call this a banal case of insecurity, either. The pertinent authorities—meaning the current government—must shoulder their responsibilities before history. According to Conacom, the way they are acting in this situation shows that they are accomplices to what is going on.

Conacom declares to the nation and the entire world that the way things are now, it is obvious this is a coup aimed at getting rid of the State Council. That is what is at present being attempted in an underhanded manner, and judging by the way it is acting, the executive itself is also seeking a way to create a political climate capable of destablizing and compromising everything along the path leading to the elections they are talking about.

For this reason, Conacom asks all political, union, civil, and socioprofessional organizations that are truly fighting for democracy to support the State Council. The Council is the only legitimate authority representing the nation at the head of the government, explains Conacom.

In view of this very broad and extremely serious crisis, all the nation's forces should get together to shoulder their responsibilities, to erect barricades to thwart [words indistinct] and defend what the Haitian people have always wanted: free, honest, democratic elections so there can be real change in Haiti.

The Haitian people are not accepting any dictatorship—neither today nor tomorrow—that a handful of people who are dreaming about what they have lost and a number of other people who are chasing after power want to impose on them. By putting our heads together and keeping them level, you bet we will bring about change!

This statement is signed for Conacom's national secretariat by Jean-Claude Bajeux, deputy secretary general; and bears the date 21 June. [passage omitted]

Said Tied To Legagneur Issue

FL2206153890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Report by Frankel Valentin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] An attack against several members of the State Council and the popular sector took place at around 1030 this morning at Hotel Santos in Pacot. [passage omitted]

A witness we interviewed, who refused to allow us to record his statements, said there were four assailants armed with heavy caliber weapons such as FAL automatic rifles and Tauruses. They were in two Toyotas without license plates—a blue one and a gray one. [passage omitted]

According to State Council president Dr. Louis Roy, whom we interviewed on the scene of the incident, this attack is connected to the conflict that exists between the executive and the State Council. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Roy] [passage omitted] The man lying there, Mr. Montes, is one of the organizers of the meeting, who was (?coming inside), I mean going outside. There is another wounded man inside. [passage omitted]

I think they came by here with the intention of preventing the meeting from being held. [passage omitted]

We were sitting inside. There were three State Council members already inside, and others were yet to come. Serge Villard was shot as he entered. He has been taken to the hospital. I was inside. No one inside got hit except the one man wounded. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What do you think this has to do with the problem that exists between the president and the State Council?

[Roy] In my opinion, it is directly connected. They know officially.... [changes thought] This is not a clandestine meeting. It is inside a building where the Constitution allows people to assemble. It was the popular organization people who invited the State Council. Thus, we can gather people to discuss things with them inside. We came here to talk to them the same way we sit down at the palace to talk to people, or at some church. This time, we came here to talk to the popular organizations. And that is what they wanted to obstruct, prevent. They came here and shot so the meeting would not take place.

I feel, however, that if they wanted to prevent the meeting from being held, they should have just come right out and nicely said: Friends, there will be no meeting. Turn back. They did not have to shoot people, kill one of the organizers and wound one of the Council members.

[Reporter] What sector do you think carried out this attack?

[Roy] I do not know. I heard people outside say hoodlums. Hoodlums, fine. But who are these hoodlums and who commands them? Who issues orders to these hoodlums? And who can keep the hoodlums from circulating? I do not know, for that is not our job. It is the job of the judiciary and the police.

[Reporter] Is this going to compromise the State Council's future work?

[Roy] They cannot prevent us from working, for, given my age, I can hardly be afraid of dying, can I? Thus, I feel that if that is what someone thinks he should do to frighten someone—render us incapable of carrying out the mission that the Haitian people sent us out to accomplish—well, they are wrong. When I die, someone else will take my place.

[Reporter] As president of the Council, can you tell us officially what position the State Council is going to adopt, after what has happened today?

[Roy] Well, as I am not an autocrat, you will have to allow me, before saying what the State Council is going to do, to gather my colleagues together to discuss the matter. That is what is called democracy!

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Dr. Roy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Doctors Pessimistic About Victim

FL2206145590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Report by Jean Edner]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The toll of the attack is one dead and two wounded. [passage omitted] The person who was killed is Jean-Marie Montes, a member of one of the popular organizations that was to meet with the State Council this morning at Hotel Santos.

Dr. Serge Villard is at present in the operating room at Canape Vert Hospital, and the doctors are very pessimistic. He was shot in the right arm and the arm is almost completely shattered. He was also hit by two bullets in the thorax, and one of the bullets even pierced his intestines.

Among the prominent figures who were at the hospital, we talked to Information Minister Carlo Desinor, who (?refused) to make statements on the attack because he says the government does not yet know what really happened.

We also talked to presidential candidate [as heard] Thomas Desulme, who told us that he had foreseen what is going on at present, and he asked for all Haitians to put their heads together to get the nation out of the crisis it is currently traversing. [passage omitted]

Provisional Government Protests

FL2206150490 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] We have just received a communique from the Ministry of Information bearing the signature of Minister Carlo Desinor, who regrets what happened this morning. The communique says:

The provisional government regrets, and condemns with all its force, the acts committed this morning, 21 June, at Hotel Santos in Pacot during a meeting the State Council was to hold with the popular organizations.

One of the meeting's organizers, Jean-Marie Montes, was killed during this attack; and a member of the State Council, Serge Villard, as well as a member of a CATH-affiliated [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] union, Emmanuel Magny, were very seriously wounded.

The provisional government extends its condolences to the families of the deceased and the other victims, and expresses its sympathies to the victims. It also expresses its condolences to the entire State Council, the political organizations, and the grieving families.

This press release is signed, in the name of the Haitian Government, by Information Minister Carlo Desinor.

The government expresses its protest, sympathies, and condolences to the people from the State Council and the popular organizations who were victimized this morning.

Newscast Devoted to Attack

FL2206180090

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole at 1300 GMT on 22 June carries a 30-minute report on the 21 June attack on a gathering of State Council members and representatives of popular organizations, reaction to this attack, and related matters.

The report notes that the State Council, in a communique on the attack issued from the National Palace and dated 21 June, points out that the police did not offer to provide any protection for the State Council members still present on the scene. The Council adds that the Pacot attack is part of a series of acts of intimidation being committed against the State Council to obstruct and interrupt the transition to democracy in Haiti and because of the firm stands the Council has taken in favor of change. The Council says this escalation of violence aggravates the political crisis and could have unforeseeable and even dangerous repercussions.

The Council once again proposes that civilians illegally possessing weapons be disarmed and prosecuted by the judiciary, and invites the Haitian people to remain vigilant and mobilized and summons all the sectors represented on the Council to an emergency meeting at 1000 on 30 June at the Legislative Palace.

The report further cites that in reaction to the attack, the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters says in a press release that: "The Army hierarchy has learned with great consternation of the new acts of terrorism committed in Port-au-Prince on 21 June."

The communique adds: "The FADH General Headquarters vigorously condemns these criminal acts, and is taking a number of measures necessary to identify and apprehend all the guilty parties."

The announcer says: "The FADH also informs the public that it is increasing its initiatives to augment and

render more rational its preventive capability and allow the forces of order to counter this existing problem of insecurity in Haiti."

The report adds that many political parties and organizations have reacted to the Pacot attack with indignation and censure.

The announcer says that Dr. Greger Jean-Louis, president of the Bel-Air based branch of the Movement for the Organization of the Country, advocates a policy of tolerance to get the nation out of this serious crisis, which could endanger the lives of everyone in Haiti. In a recorded statement, Jean-Louis says that once violence begins to escalate, it is difficult to stop, and everyone is affected.

The announcer adds that Eddy Volel of the Christian Democratic Assembly says the crisis in Haiti is actually 33 years old. Volel says: "We hold whoever forbade the two members of the State Council to enter the National Palace responsible for the murderous attack on the State Council at Hotel Santos and for the criminal attacks that have caused many deaths and done much damage in Haiti, as well as sown fear and terror." He adds: "We now see clearly that elections are not possible with either Ertha Pascal Trouillot or Herard Abraham." Volel says: "The people who murdered Yves Volel carried out 29 November [as received]; the people responsible for the 21 June Hotel Santos attack are going to effect a second 29 November. They are going to destroy, burn, and do all kinds of things so there will be no elections, so they will not lose their power. Only if the Haitian people rise up as a single man, the way they did against Prosper Avril; only if they strike, erect barricades, and paralyze the country can they win out over the criminals and obtain an antimacoute government and hold credible, peaceful, honest, open elections."

The report adds that Dr. Volvick Remy Joseph, leader of the National Cooperative Action Movement [MKN], in a press release dated 22 June 1990 and read by himself, says "the MKN was aghast at the news of the extravagant armed attack against the group of State Council members meeting peaceably at Hotel Santos in Pacot." Joseph says the MKN indignantly deplores "such murderous folly." Joseph expresses the MKN's condolences and sympathies to the victims, and adds that "the MKN appeals to the serenity and patriotism of all, for an extra effort to permit the coming elections to be held, elections which are the last chance for the Haitian people to come out into the light."

The report cites that the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] reports that murdered union leader Jean-Marie Montes is the brother of Serge Montes, a member of the MIDH's [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, a member of the ANDP] central administration. The ANDP thinks the fact that this attack comes at this particular moment is not a coincidence. ANDP points out that the electoral council is ready to publish the electoral law and that United Nations representatives are currently visiting in Haiti, and adds that the sector responsible for the attack thus apparently panicked and went berserk. ANDP energetically protests and condemns the "barbaric" attack and issues an urgent appeal to the police and the Army to shoulder their responsibilities and to cast light on these crimes. In the report the ANDP expresses its condolences and solidarity to the victims and reiterates its conviction that only a consensus and dialogue should prevail in the current conflict between the executive and the State Council, adding that it has faith that no force will be able to prevent the Haitian people from going to elections to choose their leaders freely.

The report points out that the People's National Assembly also protests the incident, saying this shows elections are not possible unless the notorious criminals are disarmed.

The report cites that in a joint press release, a number of employers' organizations—Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Association of National Producers, Aprona; Association of Distributors of Petroleum Products, Anadipp; Association of Coffee Exporters, Asdec; Association of Haitian Insurers, AAH; Association of Agricultural Producers, APA; Hotel and Tourist Association of Haiti, AHTH; Franco-Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; National Association of Importers of Pharmaceutical Products, (Anipp); Inter-American Businessmen's Association; and the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce—all condemn the 21 June Pacot attack.

The announcer says: "As a sign of mourning and protest, these associations ask their members, all union sectors, and all popular sectors to observe a work stoppage on Saturday, 23 June."

The report notes that the National Front for Change and Democracy also condemns the Pacot attack, as does the Confederation for Democratic Unity, which says vigilance brigades should once again be set up to provide security for the population.

The announcer concludes by noting that all reaction received by Radio Nationale's newsroom expresses displeasure with the current situation in Haiti and the 21 June attack, which are considered attempts to bar the way to the democratic process and prevent elections from being held in Haiti.

CATH's Mesyeux States Views

FL2206165390 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Statement issued by Jean Auguste Mesyeux, head of one of the branches of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] This morning, at the (?Frala's) hotel in Pacot, given the big crisis between the head of the executive and the State Council, the representatives of a number of popular organizations were to meet with the State

Council members to see if they could find an alternative to [as heard] the crisis existing between the two camps. [passage omitted]

I was to have attended the meeting, but I had a little problem and could not make it. [passage omitted]

The person who was killed was Jean-Marie Montes, a militant who worked among the peasants, particularly in the north. Another member of CATH, Emmanuel Magny, was wounded, as was a State Council member. [passage omitted]

And this was done in broad daylight, not at night. And then the hoodlums went to two other places—a marketplace and another place—and shot and wounded people. The death toll is reportedly four dead. [passage omitted]

We, however, hold a certain sector responsible for what is happening today. [passage omitted] This is happening because the legalistic types, the constitutionalists, are always referring to the Constitution, whereas the Constitution is never applied. The Constitution is not really in effect.

Thus, after Avril, what there should have been was a provisional president to clean up the country, and if a provisional president had been chosen, we would never have found ourselves with all these problems that we are encountering today.

I remember who, after Mrs. Ertha was sworn in, said the Haitian people no longer needed to go out into the streets and erect barricades, because the problem was solved. Well, here is how the problem has been solved today. They are done killing the children of the Haitian people, and now they are attacking the representatives of the popular organizations. Thus, this is a test they are running, to see where it will lead. And in our opinion, this means that they are going, in the coming weeks, to attack everyone who is in the habit of defending the country, in the habit of condemning the macoutes, the massacrers. [passage omitted]

Regarding the hoodlums, it is said that there are 300 hoodlums in jail. We, however, repeat: If this were serious, the general headquarters should have put out a list of their names, and they should have shown them over television, too, to make the population understand. As (?the military) is always complaining about and taking positions against hoodlums and evildoers in Haiti, and (?the population) has told them it is willing to help them, they should have done this.

New League Demands Resignation of State Council

FL2206143790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Report by Pierre Nazon Boliere from Jacmel]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] All the population of the Southeast—especially in the Jacmel area, where there is much talk of the elections that are to be held soon—is doing a lot of wondering, talking especially about this conflict between the State Council and Mrs. Trouillot and saying that they would like a solution to the conflict that would allow the nation to enter harbor safely [so to speak].

[Announcer] Let us note that in southeastern Haiti, political organizations gathered into a league, are demanding the resignation of the State Council. The (LODS), League of Democratic Organizations of the Southeast [Ligue des Organisations Democratiques du Sudest], asks Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot to shoulder her responsibilities and get rid of the members of the State Council.

Salinas Returns From Far East, Australia Trip

PA2506002990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2323 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—On his arrival in Mexico City today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said his tour of Japan, Singapore, and Australia "marks a new phase in Mexico's relationship with the Pacific Basin."

He said the trip achieved specific results, "which will benefit various areas of the country, and above all, the population in general."

President Salinas de Gortari said he was "very encouraged by the knowledge that exists about Mexico in the political, economic, and social fields and the respect for and even admiration of Mexican efforts."

"I am proud to be the president of the Mexicans," he stressed shortly after arriving one hour late at the presidential hangar in Benito Juarez Internatinal Airport.

During the presidential tour of the Orient, Japan granted Mexico $1.106 billion in credits and 32 joint investment agreements were signed with Japan and three with Singapore.

The president was welcomed back by Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella, Education Secretary Manuel Bartlett Diaz, Agrarian Reform Secretary Victor Cervera Pacheco, and Navy Secretary Mauricio Scheleske.

Communications and Transport Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo and National Defense Secretary Antonio Riviello Bazan, and Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo also greeted the president.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, president of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]; Fidel Velasquez, leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]; and Maximiliano Silerio Esparza, leader of the CNC [National Peasant Confederation], also welcomed President Salinas de Gortari.

The president was accompanied on his tour by Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales, Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche, and Urban Development and Ecology Secretary Patricio Chirinos Calero.

His retinue also included Fishing Secretary Maria de los Angelse Moreno Nava; economic adviser Claudio X. Gonzalez; and Gilberto Borja, president of the ICA [Associated Civil Engineers] group.

Daniel Ortega Arrives for Visit, Criticizes U.S.

PA2206201790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2203 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has again accused the United States of blocking development in Central America, despite the democratic changes that have taken place in the region.

During a news conference today, Ortega, accompanied by former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, asserted that the United States is still clinging to its policy of domination in Central America, thus denying the region its possibilities for economic development.

The leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) said that the U.S. attitude also denies the possibility of strengthening regional peace and democratization processes.

Ortega asserted that the United States does not act in agreement with its policy of moving in accordance with the changes that take place in the world, because it continues with its policy of domination and prevents the incorporation of new economic systems into the area.

Daniel Ortega said that President Bush's government is trying to eliminate the Sandinist revolution because during the last 10 years it promoted an economic blockade against Nicaragua, which caused the serious economic crisis his country currently faces.

Ortega added that President Chamorro's government is implementing a neoliberal and pro-monetary economic policy that is mainly affecting the most needy, and for which the government has paid a high social and political cost.

Daniel Ortega asserted: "The economic situation (in Nicaragua) is worsening, despite the absence of the economic blockade, because the government wants to reduce the deficit and lower inflation at the expense of the workers."

As for the political situation in Cuba, Ortega asserted that Fidel Castro's government will continue forward despite U.S. pressure, because, he stressed, it has the support of all the Latin American countries.

Ortega said that the FSLN defeat in the 25 February elections was the result of the economic blockade and the pressures that the United States maintained against Nicaragua, as well as the support it gave to the counterrevolution.

Ortega stated that despite U.S. disfavor, the war in Central America is about to end. He also said that 15,890 contras have demobilized and that 3,607 weapons have been turned in.

The Sandinist leader urged the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran Governments to reduce the size of their armies to contribute to the regional peace process.

He described as positive the recent agreement signed by the area presidents during the Antigua, Guatemala summit for the representatives of the Central American countries to hold meetings to discuss the reduction of military forces in the region.

Ortega, who arrived for a three-day visit in Mexico City today, will be decorated with the Benito Juarez Order tomorrow. The order will be conferred upon him by Mexican intellectuals.

PGR's Antidrug Campaign Director Resigns

PA2306192390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0247 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Attorney General's Office [PGR] reported today that Jose Ramirez Franco, director of the PGR's permanent campaign against drug trafficking, has resigned.

Meanwhile, a PGR source indicated that first- and second-ranking officials removed in the past few days already number 20 and that changes in the antidrug deputy delegates continue in some states.

The source explained that the removal of officials and deputy delegates is due "to the needs and requirements of the service, and not to corruption or illegal actions by the government officials."

The source added that Ramirez Franco was one of the most outstanding directors of the PGR's permanent campaign against drug trafficking. He will probably be replaced by Mario Alberto Cuevas Cerpa.

The source stated that while Ramirez Franco was director, approximately 60 tons of cocaine paste, more than 845,000 kg of marijuana, and nearly one ton of heroin and opium were seized and more than 105,000 fields of marijuana and poppy were destroyed.

The source said the changes in deputy delegates were made in Baja California, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Michoacan, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Jalisco, among other states.

Penal Judge Assassinated in Morelos State

PA2006235790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1716 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Cuernavaca (Mexico), 19 Jun (EFE)—Governor Antonio Riva Palacio announced today that Jojutla Penal Judge Reina Ocampo Rojas was murdered by an unidentified gunman in front of her house, located in that suburb of Cuernavaca, Morelos State, 110 km south of the Mexican capital.

The murder took place during the evening of 18 June, as the judge returned to her modest house in Jojutla with her husband and their two children. A man on a motorcycle approached her and shot her once through the heart, killing her instantly.

Ocampo's coworkers have said she was incorruptible, strict, and extremely honest. She lived modestly and had often received death threats.

State police have reported that they have no clues in the case and ruled out the possibility that the murder was retaliation from a drug trafficker because drug-related cases fall within a federal court's jurisdiction, and the murdered judge did not work in one.

El Salvador

Cristiani Comments on Peace Talk Results

PA2306191290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said today in San Miguel that he is expecting positive results in the peace negotiations taking place in Mexico. He stated that from now on he is hoping there is greater dynamic action in the negotiations to attain peace in El Salvador.

President Cristiani said that the last report on the third day of talks held in Mexico between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] shows that progress is being made, as was expected. However, he remarked that the process is not an easy one, given the 10 years of war that have torn the country. He added that both parties are taking steps to eliminate their differences.

The president also said he was not happy with the waiting period between the meetings and that he is determined to conclude the peace talks as soon as possible, thereby ending the armed conflict.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I personally hope to find a greater dynamic action in the talks. I have said many times that I am not happy with the waiting periods between the meetings, which should be held more often. We are confident that the Salvadoran people want to put an end to the armed conflict today, and not in a number of months. Thus, we continue to insist that this process be carried out more rapidly. [end recording]

President Cristiani disclosed that two of the three days of meetings held in Mexico have been devoted to the discussion of the topics included on the agenda. He added that the talks may continue for several days, but did not specify how many days.

[Begin Cristiani recording] On the second day of meetings the parties began discussing the topics on the agenda, and they continued discussing other topics included in the Caracas Agreement. We hope that the talks continue. So far, our reports indicate that the talks have taken place amid a positive atmosphere, and at this stage we hope we can reach some agreements. [end recording]

Today the president opened the second part of the reactivation program of the eastern region of the country, where he delivered 31 million colones that will be used in different projects in coordination with the municipalities and the funds of Conara [National Commission for Reconstruction].

In his speech Cristiani urged the residents of the eastern region to continue taking steps in favor of peace. However, President Cristiani stressed that the government is not only impatient but also optimistic about the possibilities that this round of talks can yield specific results. Moreover, he urged all sectors of the country to avoid confrontation and join the peace effort of all Salvadorans.

More 'Evidence' of Benavides' Guilt

PA2206182190 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Jun 90 pp2, 51

[Text] Prosecutors working on the murder case of the six Jesuits have said that the troops stationed at the Military School in November were under the command of its former director, Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides. This fact, plus the confirmation that the six Jesuits were killed with weapons from the Military School, is "evidence" that incriminates Col. Benavides, according to the prosecutors.

The prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office report that if it had not been for this "evidence" established through investigations and ballistics tests, the Fourth Penal Court would not have ordered the arrest of Col. Benavides.

They said that a suspect can be accused on "evidence" obtained through investigations and scientific tests if there is no testimony against him.

The officers involved in the murder have declared that Benavides ordered them to kill the Jesuits, a cook, and a teenager on 16 November at the Central American University. According to Salvadoran laws, however, their testimony against Benavides as defendents is unacceptable.

According to the prosecutors, the judge presumed Benavides' participation in the murder and ordered his arrest based on the following facts: The troops were under Benavides' sole command; he was the only one who could authorize the removal of weapons from the Military School, as substantiated by other officers; and the results of ballistics tests.

The prosecutors said that Judge Ricardo Zamora has not stepped down from the case, as had been requested by the defense, and is doing everything in his power to solve the case.

Reporters questioned the reporters on 21 June at noon while they were waiting for the arrival of Colonel Carlos Armando Aviles at the Courthouse, where he went to testify on how he learned of the alleged suspects shortly after the murder was committed on 16 November.

Military sources reported that Aviles, former head of the Army's Special Investigative Unit (UEI), did not answer the first summons by the Fourth Penal Court because he was attending a military course in the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Reportage Views FMLN Cease-Fire Activities

Links to Paramilitary Dismantling

PA2206192090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1726 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Oaxtepec (Mexico), 22 Jun (EFE)—Commander Ferman Cienfuegos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said today that a cease-fire agreement in the negotiations with the Salvadoran Government in Mexico is linked to a dismantling of the paramilitary groups.

According to Cienfuegos, two main steps must be taken to achieve peace in El Salvador: a cease-fire and an armed peace [paz armada]. He added that the main issue in any negotiating process will always be the Armed Forces.

Other sources close to the FMLN have said that gray smoke could be seen coming out of the talks today because, in their opinion, they have switched from a dark outlook before this meeting, to a situation in which they are making progress. They are at a point at which they are already discussing the dismantling of paramilitary groups and a reduction in the Army.

While the government delegation was keeping silent in Oaxtepec, 100 km south of Mexico City, Cienfuegos said that as long as the military dictatorship's repressive apparatus remains intact and the police's paramilitary forces continue to operate, no progress can be made in the negotiations.

He conceded that it is difficult to eliminate, in eight days, the repressive apparatus of a dictatorship that has lasted more than 40 years. Cienfuegos accused the Armed Forces of not recognizing several activities illegally carried out by the paramilitary forces.

Regarding the way in which the United Nations could oversee the Salvadoran situation to make the negotiations easier, Cienfuegos said that it cannot be done the same way as in Nicaragua with the participation of foreign military members. What they would have to do is supervise the elections and guarantee respect for human and political rights.

FMLN leaders held a news conference yesterday in Chalatenango, northern El Salvador, to say that if the negotiations get bogged down they are willing to launch a large offensive.

Peruvian Alvaro de Soto, the UN representative and mediator in these talks, said that it would be hard to reach a definitive peace agreement this year. However, he said that a cease-fire agreement could perhaps be reached on the scheduled date, by mid-September.

All sides agree that they are closer to the end of the Salvadoran civil war than ever. In 11 years, 70,000 people have been killed and more than $4 billion have been lost in a country that measures over 21,000 square km and has less than 7 million inhabitants.

Commander Warns About Offensive

PA2306042290 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 1

[Report by Francisco Galvez]

[Text] High-ranking members of the Political-Military Commission of the Salvadoran guerrillas have said that the cease-fire and demobilization of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] will only take place once real negotiations are conducted and specific steps are taken—such as an Armed Forces' purge and reduction—to democratize the country.

The leftist leaders held a news conference to the north of Chalatenango. They said that as long as a real democracy does not exist in El Salvador, "we are not going to stop the fire, and we are not going to demobilize."

"The FMLN is determined to make progress in the negotiations in a very flexible framework, but we are afraid the government and the Armed Forces do not share our intentions and goodwill," said Commander Miguel Lopez.

He warned that one can foresee that the war will worsen if the negotiations get "bogged down." The rebel leader said that this means that the military actions will be intensified in the "framework of a new offensive."

The leftist leader Miguel Lopez said: "We have observed that the government and the Armed Forces have toughened their positions on several issues to be discussed, and the government's dialogue commission will try to bog down the process."

He stated that the FMLN is willing to make progress in the dialogue process, adding that if the government is "determined to bog down" the process, "we will concentrate on the continuation of the military struggle."

He said that the international community and particularly the Bush administration are applying pressure to promote the peace process. He added that "there is no white smoke" yet because the warmongering determination of the military leaders, who represent the real power, remains unchanged. He remarked that "even the United States has been unable to put enough pressure on the military so that they clarify the murder of the six Jesuit priests."

He said that the FMLN promotes a political negotiated solution to the conflict and not a military solution, adding that the groups who oppose the negotiation are gradually going to be isolated. "These obstacles can be overcome through political and military solutions," he noted.

The peace talks that are being held in Mexico are important, and chances are some kind of military agreement can be reached. "The war is presently at a crucial stage. The conditions to end the war are excellent because the Bush administration has changed its warmongering policy," he added.

"The return of the FMLN to the political life of the country could take place once the FMLN and the population can enjoy their full legal rights," Commander Miguel Lopez concluded.

Labor Says Offensive 'Justified'

PA2306044790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers [UNTS]—the strongest labor organization in opposition to the administration—said today that the Armed Forces are the main obstacle for attaining peace in El Salvador. Leader Marco Tulio Lima announced the UNTS stand concerning the dialogue between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], particularly concerning the purge of the Armed Forces. He added that if the military is not controlled, the entire opposition runs the risk of being murdered.

[Lima] *We will not lower our guard. First of all, we demand a demilitarization because our lives are in danger. If the Armed Forces are not controlled by the government, we will be murdered. Not only will we be murdered but also the political leaders and the business leaders who do not support the oligarchic plans of Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] will also be murdered.*

This is the fear of not only UNTS, but also UNOC [National Union of Christian Workers], [words indistinct], businessmen, priests, and evangelic pastors. It is public knowledge that the Armed Forces have become the main obstacle hindering true democratization.

Marco Tulio Lima pointed out that the subject of the Armed Forces is the central point for advancing in the negotiations. Therefore, it is necessary that the Army be reduced and society be demilitarized and turned over to civilian power. He added that it is also necessary that the security corps, death squads, and civil defense be dismantled and a police force, independent of the Armed Forces, be created in its place.

Humberto Centeno said that the demilitarization of the country is not only demanded by the guerrillas, but also by the Salvadoran people.

[Centeno] *Throughout the history of the country, there have been arrogant military officers. We have learned that when it is raining, the military, who are wearing raincoats, forces passengers to get off the buses. The passengers are then frisked as they are standing in the rain getting wet. That is military arrogance.*

Most of the public offices in El Salvador are militarized. That terrorizes the workers. Public parks such as the Centennial Park and the Cuscatlan Park, which are supposed to be recreation centers, are under military control by men who wear uniforms and civilian clothes and who carry weapons.

We imagine that in Cristiani's home, even his bedroom is under military control. We believe that all of the Salvadoran people should test the courage that the new attorney general of the republic claims to have. Let us see if he has the gall to bring the military before trial.

For the time being, we are going to provide him with a few names of what demilitarization in Salvadoran society means to us and the Salvadoran people. Just to mention one in the last 30 years, there is the case of General Carlos Humberto Romero, who is responsible for the massacre of students in 1975. General Eugenio Vides Casanova was the director of the National Guard when he ordered the murder of four U.S. nuns.

Then there is the case of Roberto D'Aubuisson, who is involved in the murder of Msgr. Romero. He is also the torturer of Ana Guadalupe Martinez and of (?Dr. Saiz); he is also responsible for thousands of crimes committed by the death squads. Let us see if Roberto D'Aubuisson is brought to trial. There is also the case of General Juan Rafael Bustillos.

Centeno also mentioned the former director of the national police, Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar, as well as Colonels Francisco Elena Fuentes and Heriberto Hernandez, and the commander of the 3d military zone, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas and other high-ranking military chiefs. He requested the FMLN remain inflexible on the issue of the Armed Forces.

[Centeno] *We do not believe that the FMLN should be flexible about the Armed Forces. Here in El Salvador, we sign many agreements and papers; we reform many things. However, if the Armed Forces continue as they are, they will continue violating human rights, labor rights, and even exerting pressure on the judges so that soldiers who have been charged with murder will be released, like in the case of the journalist who was murdered in San Miguela.*

The labor leaders called on the government, the National Association of Private Enterprise, and the Armed Forces to assume a more flexible position in order to achieve progress in the peace talks, because otherwise the war could worsen.

The leader, therefore, justified a new military offensive by the FMLN because of arbitrary actions by the government. They also reported that in a few days, they will file several lawsuits against military chiefs so that the attorney general can demonstrate whether there is justice in the country. The leaders, however, doubted that there is justice in the country and because of this the situation will become violent again.

Rivera y Damas: Possible FMLN Attack 'Mistake'

PA2306045390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Itaicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Regarding rumors about a new [rebel] offensive, San Salvador Archbishop Msgr. Aturo Rivera y Damas has said that it would be a mistake to conduct a new offensive now.

[Rivera y Damas] *I do not want to conduct a major discussion here, but I would say that it would be a total mistake to carry out an offensive similar to the previous one. I believe one mistake is enough.*

As for the dialogue, Msgr. Rivera y Damas added that discussing the most difficult issues may not be the most appropriate thing to do, but it can have its advantages.

[Rivera y Damas] *Mr. Alvaro de Soto [UN Secretary General representative to the peace talks] believes that there is no deadlock. He thinks it is simply a matter of giving time to the discussion of each issue according to its importance. That is why I suggested beginning by discussing the least complicated issues first in order to reach political agreements that could create trust among the population.*

[Reporter] *Reality, however, proves to be different. The parties involved have begun by discussing the most difficult issues.*

[Rivera y Damas] *Obviously, that also has its advantages, because this would open a huge door through which less important topics could enter. To open that door, however, is not an easy task.*

Concerning the fact of whether the cease-fire or the demilitarization should come first, the Catholic Prelate said that the conflicting parties should seek agreement.

[Rivera y Damas] *The two parties should show flexibility so that neither of them asks the other to do something while the other does nothing. Both parties should make positive steps and reach agreements.*

Regarding the Jesuits' case, Msgr. Rivera y Damas said that impunity would only harm the Armed Forces.

[Rivera y Damas] *In my opinion, Father Ibisate's observation is very clear. We all know that to lie and to eat fish with bones require extreme care. In their [not further specified] attempt to deny what we all know, they start getting further tied up in the problem. We start realizing that there is very little desire to cooperate with justice and that impunity begins to prevail despite the desires of the country's social sectors. By this I mean that there is a very serious moral crisis. Military honor should be proven with actions. The actions we are seeing do not point to that honor.*

Finally, the San Salvador Archbishop recalled that the Church will continue believing that an extended and sincere dialogue is the only way to solve existing problems. Msgr. Rivera y Damas asked all the Salvadorans of goodwill to pray for the elimination of all the obstacles that block peace and reconciliation.

UN Reports 'Progress' in Talks With FMLN

PA2406024590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2251 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Report by Gerardo Tena]

[Text] Oaxtepec, Mexico, 23 Jun (AFP)—Alvaro De Soto, UN representative in the peace dialogue the government and the guerrillas began on 19 June, said here today that there has been "considerable progress" in the negotiations dealing with the armed forces, but up to now there have been no agreements.

De Soto said that details of the negotiations on the military issue will not be released in order to maintain the confidentiality agreement. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the government have been discussing the issue since 19 June in this resort located 60 km south of the capital.

Salvadoran Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, head of the government delegation, said today that "there is progress and perhaps we are getting close to a specific agreement" on the military issue. However, he did not provide further details.

The topics addressed in the meeting, in keeping with the timetable agreed upon at a meeting in Caracas in May, are the armed forces, human rights, the judicial system, the electoral system, constitutional reform, economic and social problems, and verification by the United Nations.

"The topic of purging the armed forces continues to be discussed, and we are turning to the defense structure and the disbanding of the paramilitary forces," De Soto added.

"The Caracas timetable is seriously being followed. The topic of the armed forces is the most difficult one and that is why we are taking our time. I am not even sure we are going to be able to finish addressing that topic," he indicated.

The FMLN and the Alfredo Cristiani government began their peace dialogue this year in Geneva and, after the Venezuela meeting, they hope to reach political agreements and achieve a cease-fire before 15 September.

The FMLN delegation is led by Commander Shafik Handal, and the government's delegation is led by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria.

There is confusion in Oaxtepec about when this meeting will end. While it is speculated that it might end tonight, it is also stated that it might end on 25 or 26 June, as originally scheduled.

Weekly Roundup of El Salvador Combat

PA2506005590

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 0413 GMT on 16 June reports that "seven

soldiers were wounded and a guerrilla killed during a violent attack this morning (15 June) on the Third Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel, 140 km from San Salvador, that partially destroyed an important electrical power plant." The report adds that military sources told this station that the action "was preceded by attacks on several utility towers."

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 18 June on page one carries a report datelined in San Miguel stating that Colonel Julio Cesar Grijalva, acting commander of the Third Infantry in San Miguel, "is personally leading a combing operation in pursuit of People's Revolutionary Army groups that carried out attacks on a substation of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission [CEL] in Jalacatal and the Third Brigade headquarters on 14 and 15 June."

The report states that Commander "Rey," who headed the rebel operations, was wounded and is at large, left behind the body of a female radio operator, and that a large amount of weapons, explosives, and equipment were seized.

This report adds that the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] today reported that "presumed extremists, armed with AK-47 rifles, opened fire at a house in Tres Caminos Canton, in Mejicanos, killing 49-year-old Mrs. Berta Flores Beltran and 18-year-old Maria Elena Romero, and seriously injuring Roberto Paz Quintanilla."

The report also cites Coprefa as saying that "Fourth Brigade troops this weekend in Los Pitos Hill killed 35 guerrillas during a bloody clash."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 18 June carries a Coprefa report stating that "the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] this past weekend kidnapped a group of third grade students from the rural school in Llano El Angel Canton, Ciudad Barrios, San Miguel Department."

The report adds that "another group of subversives killed peasant Salomon Ramos Zelaya, who was forcefully taken from his home in El Cobanal Canton, Colon, La Libertad." The report states that "the Third Infantry Brigade reported that a peasant, identified as Jose Dever Gonzalez, who was heading for work, was injured when he activated an explosive device planted by the terrorists in El Nino Canton, on the outskirts of San Miguel Department."

This report also states that "an FMLN terrorist was killed during a clash in the outskirts of San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department, and the body of another subversive was found in a common grave in Huizucar, La Libertad Department."

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 20 June reports that "new acts of sabotage have left the country's central area without electricity, CEL spokesmen said today. They reported that the insurgents last night [19 June] dynamited several power towers that left two electricity primary lines out of service. The guerrilla attacks only affected the electricity supply in Cuscatlan and La Libertad Departments, and San Salvador's metropolitan area."

The report adds that during the aforementioned clash in San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department, "the clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti claims to have inflicted 11 casualties on the Army and damaged a UH-1H helicopter."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish on 1400 GMT on 21 June reports that "FMLN urban guerrillas during the afternoon of 20 June attacked a plant of the National Administration for Telecommunications in Western Monte Bello neighborhood, according to official spokesmen. The report states that a soldier was killed and Lieutenant Wilfredo Omar Quintero was wounded. The action took place at 1830."

This report adds that "during the past few hours, guerrillas have ambushed Treasury policemen in La Palma, Chalatenango Department killing a policeman, wounding another, while another—who is presumably in rebel hands—is missing."

It states that "a guerrilla was killed, and a Third Infantry Brigade member and a civilian wounded during clashes in Llano del Chilamate Canton, Jucuapa, in eastern Usulutan Department."

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 22 June reports that "a soldier of the First Infantry Brigade was killed and another was wounded as they repelled an attack from rebel urban command units against a telephone exchange in Montebello neighborhood."

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1712 GMT on 23 June reports that "an official source today reported that three people, including a civilian and a soldier, were killed during rebel attacks on Salvadoran Army positions in various points of the country."

This report states that the casualties were sustained when "guerrilla commando units at dawn today attacked a military checkpoint in San Salvador's Ciudad Delgado." This report adds that "two guerrillas were killed during clashes on 22 June in Nejapa, 21 km north of San Salvador, when a military patrol 'surprised' a rebel column moving about the region."

The report adds that the Army did not report on casualties among its ranks. However, it accused the FMLN of kidnapping two soldiers who were on leave visiting their families in San Vicente and San Salvador Departments.

Displaced People's Group on Army 'Kidnappings'

PA2406015390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—An organization that claims it represents displaced Salvadorans

today charged that the Army has captured seven members of cooperatives, including a minor, in central and eastern El Salvador.

A spokesperson of the Coordinating Board for People Displaced from the Central Region [Coordinadora de Desplazados de la Region Central—CDRC] of El Salvador said that soldiers "kidnapped" Francisca Santana (40), her six-year-old son, Juan Francisco Gaitan (50), Santiago Rodriguez (45), and Miguel Aviles (45) in San Marcos Lempa, in war-torn Usulutan Department.

The spokesperson added that these five members of the cooperatives were captured by the Armed Forces' Military Engineers Detachment headquartered in Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, at an unspecified date and for "unknown" reasons.

The source added that Juan Martinez (40) and Oscar Flores (35) were detained by soldiers in Tecoluca, central San Vicente Department, as they were going to their agricultural jobs.

The CDRC also charged that members of the Sixth Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Usulutan Department, are "searching" the houses of members of cooperatives under the "pretext of looking for weapons."

It said that members of cooperatives "constantly receive death threats" and that foreigners who visit the communities are "persecuted" by the troops because of their alleged links to the guerrillas.

Rebels Increase Sabotage on Electric Network

PA2206151090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Salvadoran guerrillas have stepped up their sabotage of the country's electric network, causing a 15-percent reduction in energy in San Salvador, according to official sources. The spokesman for the National Electrical Commission said that the rebels downed four high-tension pylons near San Salvador, which forced a four-hour rationing in San Salvador's residential and industrial areas. The spokesman said that the pylons have not been repaired yet, but that a crew of workers has already been sent to repair the damage. It is expected that service will be back to normal in a few hours.

A San Salvador Electrical Commission spokesman has reported that the electric service in the capital city is practically normal, after some damage to the electric network was repaired. Asking citizens for understanding, the spokesman explained that the guerrilla sabotage against the electric system has left million-dollar losses in the industrial sector.

Presidency Employee Slain, Circumstances Unclear

PA2306183990 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Ruben Hernandez Figueroa, 63, an employee at the Presidential House, died last night of a shot to the head under circumstances that have not yet been officially explained because, according to preliminary reports, the incident occurred inside the Presidential House.

However, almost 24 hours after Hernandez' death, the third justice of the peace has only a few pieces of general information on the victim and the medical examiner's report.

It has also been learned that the body was taken to the morgue of the Isidro Menendez Hospital in a Presidential House vehicle at approximately 2100. In other words, the judge on duty was not summoned to the scene—as would have been normally the case—because, most probably, the victim died instantly. This is so because, according to the autopsy that was performed last night at the forensic clinic, the slug entered through the left side of Hernandez' neck and lodged in the occipital lobe of his brain.

Be this a case of involuntary manslaughter or a murder, the fact is that the judge should have inspected the site as soon as possible to avert possible doubts about this case.

Guatemala

Official Says Guerrillas May Vote as Citizens

PA2406021290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Jun (ACAN- EFE)—The Guatemalan guerrillas may vote in the general elections set for 11 November, but without weapons or uniforms, Supreme Electoral Board (TSE) President Arturo Herbruger said today. The official voiced confidence that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) will abide by the agreement signed in Madrid, Spain, with the country's political leaders to the effect that they will not sabotage the elections.

Herbruger said that the guerrillas "can and must vote in the November election," as long as "they do so without weapons or uniforms" and have their registration cards. The TSE president reiterated that the guerrillas, as common citizens, can and must vote. The successor to President Vinicio Cerezo will be picked in the November elections. In 1986, Cerezo became the first civilian president of Guatemala after two decades of military regimes. So far, Jorge Carpio Nicole, leader of opposition Union of the National Center is ahead in the polls, showing the greatest possibility (over 20 percent) of winning the Presidency.

PSD Refutes Comments on Murder of SI Leader

PA2406042990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2319 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Jun (DPA)—Guatemalan Government Minister General Carlos Morales Villatoro reportedly accused "friends" of Socialist International [SI] Secretary Hector Oqueli Colindres of "turning Oqueli in" to a "group of foreigners," presumably Salvadorans, who kidnapped him and Guatemalan lawyer Gilda Flores in January and murdered them. Today, Mario Solorzano, Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) secretary general, refuted those remarks, saying Morales is "irresponsible" and "covering up incidents that have not been fully explained."

Solorzano added that the official's statement "is without any basis nor is it corroborated by the investigation conducted by the Guatemalan Government. [quotation marks as received] He received a copy of the report, which was also submitted to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, the SI, and Guatemalan ministers. Solorzano was outraged by "the minister's actions from the moment of the kidnapping, when he immediately said the perpetrators were foreigners," adding that a document was being drafted to question Morales Villatoro in Congress. It was also reported a SI commission will soon come to Guatemala in connection with the case.

Foreign Minister Briefs Ambassadors on Summit

PA2406023990 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] In a meeting with ambassadors accredited in Guatemala, Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias said on 20 June that for the time being, no possibilities exist for the reduction of the Guatemalan military forces, as the Antigua declaration proposed in keeping with the Esquipulas accords.

In the meeting held at the Protocol Room of the Foreign Ministry, the ambassadors were briefed on the results of the economic summit, the development plan and its scope, and the positive effects that the agreements will have for the Central American region.

Rivera Irias also told the diplomats that Central America has the ability to face the challenges posed by modern life and development in various regions of the world. The foreign minister said another important result of the summit was the reaffirmation of the integration of the isthmus.

The ambassadors asked questions that deal with the results of the economic summit. Doubt was expressed about whether the Guatemalan guerrillas will respect the agreements signed in Antigua and whether the Guatemalan Army will be willing to reduce the number of its men.

Foreign Minister Rivera Irias said that the commission on security, verification, control, and limitation of armaments will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 31 July to undertake a technical analysis of the reduction in the military forces, as Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has proposed.

Editorial on Baker Visit to Central America

PA2406140390 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 14

[Text] For the first time, a broad report has been given on the talks held with an official of the United States, which is not a usual occurrence in this region. It is worthwhile to point out that in this aspect it is necessary to create and consolidate a tradition of what the Guatemalan officials call openness, although they are not too inclined to show this quality but rather to demand it.

However, a more basic issue is the fact that the United States is adopting a different stand toward our countries, which are usually in conflict with each other. This change of course means that the United States has now clearly expressed its willingness to support the process of unity launched by the Central American countries.

While the Ronald Reagan government refused to support the process of unity that was initiated with the peace efforts, the government of his successor, George Bush, has followed a new regional policy, whose elements, according to Baker, are as follows:

1. Support for the regional peace process.
2. An agreement with the USSR to put an end to the conflicts.
3. Cooperation with Europe and Japan to support democratization.
4. A bipartisan policy for Central America.

However, it is interesting to note that the secretary of state held "bilateral consultations" with the presidents who were meeting in Antigua, rather than meeting jointly with them.

In a more specific vein, Baker cleared up doubts about the disposition of the United States to establish a mechanism of cooperation with the area countries, similar to what the United States supports with the so-called Group of 24, which is used to back the countries of Eastern Europe who have chosen the market economy for their development.

Specifically, the visiting official said that Central America will not be shoved aside out of preference for the European countries, an issue that was causing a certain uneasiness in the area. "I am here at the request of President Bush to say clearly, very clearly, that the United States will continue to be committed to and firmly support the regional peace process," said the visitor.

"This is why we are exploring with Japan, the EC, Canada, and other industrial democracies possible modalities for achieving greater support for democracy and development in Central America.

According to the official bulletins released, James Baker said that "the United States is going to continue supporting the democracy and the free market economy of Central America."

This is a very important statement, because nothing would be better for these countries than if the leader of the Western World, which enjoys the benefits of the market economy, were to contribute to these benefits in the rest of the world.

Honduras

Minister on Plans To Join C.A. Common Market

PA2406154190 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Finance Minister Benjamin Villanueva stated his optimism yesterday after the meeting between President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and the directorate board members of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise, Cohep. The meeting was held to inform the Cohep about the results of the Guatemalan summit.

Regarding the Central American Common Market, the official said that Honduras will join it with new rules, whose main characteristic will be to leave behind the privileges and advantages that many member countries enjoyed for a long time.

Villanueva said: "It is not a matter of establishing whether we are ready to rejoin. Rather, we must be aware that there is a need to start this process immediately so that we can be ready to compete as soon as possible, not only at a Central American level, but also with other countries of the world."

The minister added that several work groups will participate in a complete program that must be followed over the next months in accordance with the agreements signed at the last presidential summit. The program includes representatives of several official organizations directly related to the integration.

Villanueva said: This does not preclude the participation of private enterprise, which will discuss with the official delegates the conversion of the debt that Central American countries have with friendly governments and international finance organizations.

In that sense, the current administration would like to work with private enterprise, and the government has proved this by inviting the Cohep directorate board members to attend the Guatemala meeting, Villanueva said.

He said that the Cohep's participation, as well as its points of view, are decisive, since it is not a matter of imposing something, but rather of sketching in the new integration plan, which has the EEC's full financial support on this occasion.

Editorial on U.S. Plan for Central America

PA2406132490 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 9

[Editorial: "The U.S. Plan and Central America's Interests"]

[Text] The world is moving toward significant changes. Ideologies that tyrannized people are coming to an end. The leaders of military and industrial powers have finally understood that the huge differences that divide mankind into rich and poor and developed and underdeveloped can lead people to engage in homicidal acts of violence, as has been historically demonstrated.

Central America, which historically has been forsaken by prosperous nations and industrial centers, is now, after 10 years of war, acute misery, and injustice, on the road that past generations could only dream of. We are not going to examine past periods, when the terrible deeds of predatory empires and men who roamed our land imposing their will and sowing egotistical passions, which later produced social pain and calamities, had to be endured.

War situations still persist in Central America, and each day men, women, and children die in a turmoil of heated confrontations. There are strong hopes that the bitter fratricidal violence will be replaced by a constructive period. The Central American presidents want it this way, and they have made beautiful demonstrations of progress and justice in their meetings.

The so-called Central American economic summit held in Antigua, Guatemala on 15, 16, and 17 June has been an answer to the Central American people's need to harmonize their political and economic interests to improve a civilized coexistence, to jointly sweep away the rubbish of war, to conquer more technological power, and to be able to actively participate in the efforts for a new international society.

The economy ministers of the area are now responsible for working on big presidential objectives. They will have to find the mechanism that will give institutional life to those objectives and put that mechanism to work. In this regard, the ministers will hold their first meeting on 29 June in Guatemala. Their first task will be to activate regional Central American integration organizations to create a five-nation economic plan. Integration within a new legal, political, economic, and social framework is the grand objective following the Antigua, Guatemala summit.

In view of the Central American economic and social crisis and in the framework of a climate of political detente in the area, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker spoke to the presidents of Central America and Panama the evening after the closing of the economic summit meeting. Mr. Baker's speech dealt with an economic and political support plan that has been discussed separately by the EEC, Japan, and the United States. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and the Mexican Government have shown much interest in this plan.

What is the essence of the U.S. plan? According to our sources, Mr. Baker told the presidents that it could be possible to make the donating (industrialized) countries agree on a Group-24 type program, like the one handling the challenges that the structural changes presently taking place in East Europe. Group-24 was organized last year with the support of the EEC. It provides assistance in fields of strategic importance to East European countries working on the construction of a pluralist and free market society.

The group has an expeditious operational structure. It is directed by the EEC. Mr. Baker made no proposal on who would manage the plan suggested for Central America. He did say he supports the Central American interest in developing quickly and constantly while eliminating the huge social and economic injustices our people endure, and in producing a climate of security that would permit a reduction of defensive military structures and of arms.

The presidents believe that the operational phase that will give structural form to Baker's plan must produce a definite plan before the end of the year. Consultations should be taking place right now to determine what tools are required to implement the joint assistance of donating countries in favor of Central America. Baker says that the United States, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, the EEC, and Japan agree that the aid they will be giving our nations must strengthen democracy, development, and disarmament.

It will be noticed that Mr. Baker's plan does not work against the dignity of our people or try to control or to negatively influence the political will of our nations. On the contrary, Baker's speech represents U.S. acknowledgement of Central America's grand interests and of its desire to openly, honestly, and decidedly support the edification of a more humane world, a world more sensitive to the dignity of the Central American people and more methodical in evaluating economic and political progress in the area.

Those countries that at parliamentary level quickly adopt intelligent and practical measures in these times of change will be better prepared to take advantage of the new situation and to courageously and perseveringly promote plans and programs capable of securing for us a place of honor in the international community. Hard, realistic, and honorable work is the task ahead for the Hondurans.

Navy Can Guarantee Sovereignty in Fonseca Gulf

PA2406183490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1716 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Jun (ACAN - EFE)—A Honduran Navy commander warned today that his units are capable of guaranteeing Honduran sovereignty in the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific side. The Gulf of Fonseca has been the scene of border conflicts with El Salvador.

Commander Hernan Ramirez, who heads the Honduran Navy forces in the Pacific, stated: "We can defend the Gulf of Fonseca." He would provide no further details in this regard, but noted that he has established contact with Salvadoran military commanders in the area to keep "some problems from growing out of control."

He said, without providing dates, that "there have been incidents" in the past between the two sides. He attributed this "to the warmongering spirit of that country's young people."

Commander Ramirez explained that there have also been "incidents" with the Nicaraguan Navy because some areas of the gulf are not marked clearly.

The Gulf of Fonseca has been the subject of talks among the three nations. It was revived this week when an important Honduran official charged that "El Salvador has unlimited territorial ambitions, and now, instead of the 12 islands it had been claiming before, it is claiming 20."

The border differences between Honduras and El Salvador are currently being handled by the International Court of Justice at The Hague. This court will issue an unappealable ruling on the dispute by 1992 at the latest.

The Gulf of Fonseca region is considered "strategic" from the economic and military points of view, to the extent that the United States has a military base on the Honduran Island of Tigre.

Nicaragua

Cesar Says U.S. Cannot Dictate Decisions

PA2306194890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1834 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Managua, 23 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Alfredo Cesar, first secretary of the Nicaraguan Legislative Assembly, asserted today that "we are not going to do whatever is wished" by Harry Shlaudeman, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, or U.S. President George Bush's administration.

During a panel discussion held today over a Managua radio station, the former contra leader expressed surprise over statements attributed to Ambassador Shlaudeman in the sense that the United States wants to "put an end to" the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which is now in the opposition.

Cesar, who is a close aide of President Violeta Chamorro, defended the Nicaraguan Government's autonomy and said that, "At any rate, that kind of statement is senseless because here we are not going to do what Shlaudeman or the United States wants."

"We have said many times that being friends is one thing and being subservient people is another. From friends we take suggestions, which are welcome, but we make the decisions," he stressed.

The social democratic leader said he was surprised at the statements attributed to the U.S. diplomat because, according to him, Shlaudeman is "a very civil man, a professional diplomat, and I would be surprised if he ever said that the United States is interested in putting an end to Sandinism."

Shlaudeman, who presented his credentials to Chamorro on Thursday, "is not a hothead, and I do not believe he made that kind of statement."

The legislator noted that "as far as the (Chamorro) government is concerned, the Sandinists have absolute freedom to play their role as a party and opposition, according to the country's laws."

Cesar praised the revolution headed by the Sandinists in 1979 and said that the change was "legitimate, right, and a historical need, but what we are trying to do after the electoral victory is to correct the abuses and deviations committed by the FSLN."

The new government headed by Chamorro "does not intend to work against the revolution's gains, and it does not aspire to introduce 'drastic changes,' as a revengeful sector in the National Opposition Union (UNO), which won the elections, wishes."

Cesar quit the Sandinist government in May 1982 and traveled to Costa Rica, where he went into exile because "there was no room any more" in Nicaragua for him, and he was totally in disagreement with the policy devised by the revolutionaries.

He later became a member of the leadership of the Nicaraguan Resistance ("contras").

Contras Announce Disarmament of Top Leaders

PA2306225590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2122 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Managua, 23 Jun (AFP)—Roberto Ferrey, government representative to the [demobilization] talks with the rebels, said today that in announcing that the staff of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN, the contras) will disarm on 27 June, this group "formally declares the end of the armed struggle."

In a joint communique released by Ferrey, the contras and the Chamorro Government announced that "the demobilization process will be finalized on 27 June with the disarmament of the RN's top military hierarchy."

These anti-Sandinists will turn over their weapons—as about 16,000 have already done—to military observers of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), whose mission in Nicaragua will end on 29 June.

By agreement of the two parties, top military leader Israel Galeano, alias "Commander Franklin," Commanders "Mack" (Jose Benito Bravo), "Ruben" (Oscar Sobalvarro), "Johnny" (Luis Sobalvarro), "Denis," and "Invisible," among others, will disarm on 27 June in San Pedro de Lovago, 200 km southeast of the country [as received].

Two weeks ago, 24 RN regional commanders turned over their rifles in El Almendro, southeast Nicaragua, where the bulk of the rebel forces also disarmed, and where the development centers for the reincorporation of former combatants into civilian life will be established.

The demobilization and disarmament process, which started on 8 May and should have ended 13 days ago, continued today in several zones of the country.

Ferrey pointed out that this announcement "reflects the continuation of the evolution and orderly transit of the RN from an armed force into a civic group that will become part of the new political, economic, social, and cultural life of Nicaragua."

However, the communique makes no reference to the surrender of heavy armament, which according to local observers, is still in contra hands.

Ortega Criticizes Decree Issued by Government

PA2406211790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1926 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Managua, 24 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said that the decree issued by President Violeta Chamorro granting her legislative, judicial, and electoral powers, "goes against the Constitution and the legal order" established in the country and threatens to "submerge Nicaragua into chaos."

On 11 June, the Chamorro government issued a decree which, according to independent legal experts, violates the independence of the powers of the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), which was in charge of the February elections.

After returning last night from Mexico, where he received the "Benito Juarez" award for his contribution to regional peace, Ortega asked the Chamorro government "to correct this decree, which is not viable and which cannot be implemented."

"It is in the hands of the government whether the country attains stability or is submerged into chaos," Ortega stressed, adding that "we have to struggle within the constitutional framework, defending the laws in all areas."

Decree 1-90 authorized the Chamorro government to grant the Government Ministry the power to organize the issuance of identification cards to citizens, a function that corresponds to the CSE in accordance with the political agreement reached by then President Ortega and the political parties in August.

In addition, the Government Ministry was also authorized to delimit departments and municipalities, a function which, according to Ortega, violates the Constitution, which grants that power to the National Assembly.

The government also transferred to the Education Ministry the universities' power to grant degrees.

Reportage on D. Ortega's Comments, Travel

Goes to Mexico To Receive Decoration

PA2406021390 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 22 Jun 90

[From the independent newscast "Extravision"]

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega traveled to the Mexican capital today [21 June] where, during a special ceremony tomorrow, he will receive the Benito Juarez decoration, which is bestowed on men who struggle to achieve peace. This decoration is granted by the Mexican Coordinating Board of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People [Coordinadora de Solidaridad Mexicana con el Pueblo de Nicaragua].

[Begin Ortega recording] This is a recognition for the Nicaraguan people who have defended their sovereignty, self-determination, and right to peace and life. It is presented from a people who are also a symbol of the struggle to defend nationality, sovereignty, and self-determination, as the Mexican people have been. Juarez stands for and embodies these principles applied to defend the people's independence, self-determination, and sovereignty. I will receive this recognition on behalf of the fallen heroes and martyrs, their mothers, and the Nicaraguan people, who have struggled to achieve peace and win the right to have the democracy that we have been forging since 19 July 1979. [end recording]

Says Unity Needed for U.S. 'Charge'

PA2406025790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega has said that Mexican political forces and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) intend to achieve the unification of Latin American through peace and democracy.

Before returning to Nicaragua after a two-day visit to Mexico, Ortega pointed out that dialogue among Latin American political forces is the only way to tackle the U.S. political "charge" designed to pulverize the region's unity, which has gained strength over the past few years.

Mexico and the Nicaraguan opposition agree that we must now focus our attention on the situation that prevails in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to help bring about a democratic, profound, and legal opening such as Nicaragua's.

In Nicaragua, Ortega added, the situation has worsened with the intervention of death squads and human rights violations.

As for El Salvador, he said that there are talks between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), and it is hoped that the guerrillas, a group up in arms, will continue to exercise its legitimate right to rebel.

Commenting on the current situation in his country, Ortega said that although the government is not being shared in Nicaragua, the FSLN will support concerted efforts involving the three social segments of the population—business, government, and workers.

He said that as an opposition force, the FSLN will maintain a critical position toward the Chamorro Government and stop any attempt to reverse revolutionary achievements.

The FSLN will demand that the government meet the expectations of the population with regard to protecting the family basket, the right to housing, and the peasants' right to work their land with needed and timely loans, Ortega said.

With that in mind, he added, they want the Mexican Government to offer its full support to the current administration through cooperation, which was restricted at other times, because the Nicaraguan Government failed to meet its payments.

On this occasion, I was unable to exchange views with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who is on tour in Asia, but I discussed the Nicaraguan situation with Government Secretary Fernandez Gutierrez Barrios so that he will in turn brief the president, Ortega added.

Rules Out Coup by Sandinist Army

PA2406034790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2311 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has ruled out a coup d'etat by the Sandinist People's Army, because it is loyal to the government and Nicaragua's political constitution.

The leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) pointed out that the Sandinists "acquired the commitment to protect the revolution by upholding democracy" after his party's defeat at the 25 February elections.

The Sandinist commander today presided over a meeting under the slogan "Daniel Ortega and Mexican Solidarity," organized by the Mexican Coordinating Board of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People [Coordinadora Mexicana de Solidaridad con el Pueblo de Nicaragua], the closing event of his three-day visit to this city.

Before a crowd gathered at the auditorium of the National Trade Union of Education Workers (SNTE), Ortega said that his country's elections were "a victory over attempts to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution."

Ortega, who was accompanied by Former Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Msgr. Sergio Mendez Arceo, said that the electoral process that took place had been scheduled in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, and thus, it contributed to strengthening democracy.

In his lengthy and at times emotional speech, he said that from the opposition the Sandinists are in a better position to defend the revolution and added that its defeat in the elections "was not a victory of the Yankees, but of Nicaraguan democracy."

Ortega talked about the weakness of Latin American revolutions and said that they are sustained by the isolated actions of political leaders who are unable to unite forces to strengthen the peoples' achievements and sovereignty.

He said that true Latin American integration must be materialized through the unification of forces to defend the nations' sovereignty, as opposed to the further fragmention of revolutionary forces of Hispanic America that is taking place.

Ortega thanked the Mexican people for their support for and solidarity with the Nicaraguan people at the most difficult moments "which is when friendship between fraternal nations is tested."

Last of Yatama, RN Northern Front Demobilizes

PA2406040090 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Report by Norman Talavera; italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Yatama [organization of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole groups] and the Northern Front of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) [words indistinct] demobilization. In this region, 1,700 men were demobilized. Commanders Blas and Tigre, along with another 200 fighters, were the last to hand over their rifles today in (Wilbascarma) to General Augustin Quesada, ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] chief in Nicaragua. Commander Tigre said that although the OAS has been unable to provide supplies to the demobilized soldiers, they did not oppose the demobilization.

[Commander Tigre] *We have witnesssed the OAS inability to provide adequate supplies for our fighters. We have no provisions in the warehouses, and we have received second-hand pants, but we believe the funds exist for the demobilization. We have been sidelined in this and many other ways, and yet we have not opposed the demobilization. We are not opposed to the demobilization because we believe that is what the people want. Not just the people either—many international groups also wish to have peace in Nicaragua. That is why we were compelled to demobilize. However, we must make it clear that handing over the weapons does not mean we have surrendered or are surrendering.*

Commander Tigre said that there will be three development zones to settle demobilized fighters and their relatives. He also said the Atlantic Coast will have its own police.

[Commander Blas] *We must have a regional police. That is contained in the autonomy law. President Violeta Chamorro recognized the autonomy statute. Based on that autonomy law, there will be a regional police. The police corps will consist of area residents. That is why we are not asking for the regular police in these settlements.*

Gen. Quesada said that by handing over its weapons today, Yatama is ending the war:

[Quesada] *Today, in one or two minutes, when Commander Blas, your chief, deposits his weapon in my hands, he will be symbolically handing over the weapons of all fighters—the hundreds of Yatama fighters who have already handed over their weapons and who today will end the war that has lasted too many years and claimed too many lives. Now, this area must become a starting point for the future, for peace, and for the victory for all the ideals of peace, justice, and welfare that the Nicaraguan people so richly deserve.*

ONUCA Reports 500 Contras Not Yet Demobilized

PA2406015290 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] sources have reported that 500 counterrevolutionaries have yet to demobilize in Security Zone No. 5 in El Almendro and that the disarmament process has been completed in the other zones.

So far, 15,896 counterrevolutionaries have demobilized in the seven security zones. Yesterday, 412 contras disarmed in El Almendro; they surrendered 168 AK rifles and two grenade launchers.

H. Ortega on Disarmament Process at Ceremony

PA2306034790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Jun 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Yesterday during a ceremony in which approximately 20 ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] military chiefs who had participated in the demobilization and disarmament of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution were decorated, General Humberto Ortega asserted that "the contra disarmament and the Nicaraguan peace process would not have been attained without the sacrifice of the Nicaraguan people who faced an unfair war imposed by the United States during eight years."

During the ceremony held at the Oscar Tuncios Chavarria Tank Brigade, Gen. Humberto Ortega honored Venezuelan Lieutenant Colonels Alvaro Barboza, Ernesto Garcia, and Colombian Lt. Col. Jaime Fajardo with the Camilo Ortega Gold Medal in the First Class.

Gen. Ortega stressed that both the efforts made by former president Daniel Ortega and by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government created trust among the mercenary forces, which led them to join the demobilization process.

In his speech delivered before a select group of Sandinist People's Army [EPS] representatives who attended the ceremony of decoration of various ONUCA officers, Ortega said that the efforts made by the Central American presidents last year during the Costa del Sol, El Salvador summit to attain peace in the region and the solution of the Nicaraguan conflict would have been in vain "if the EPS members had not acted with discipline, conviction, and respect for the peace process."

Humberto Ortega stressed that if the EPS soldiers had failed to trust their superiors and had not respected the cease-fire, it would have been very difficult to conduct an effective disarmament process leading to total peace in Nicaragua.

Gen. Ortega, however, said that there are still contra groups that have not joined the disarmament process. Ortega urged those groups to do so within the next few weeks, "because we have to work so that this process is consolidated by the end of the year.

Humberto Ortega talked about how hard it is for the mothers of heroes and martyrs and for all those who were affected by the war to see the contras return to Nicaragua. Ortega said: "A very strong spirit of reconciliation is necessary to understand this process."

The EPS chief stated: "Nicaraguans must take care to avoid vengeful attitudes that lead nowhere and can only harm our people."

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Humberto Ortega, EPS Chief Major Gen. Joaquin Cuadra, ONUCA Chief Division Gen. Agustin Quesada, International Support and Verification Commission Chief Santiago Murray, cabinet members, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Nicaragua presided over the decoration ceremony.

Maj. Gen Joaquin Cuadra, EPS General Staff chief, decorated 20 sergeants, NCO's, and soldiers of the ONUCA Blue Berret Battalion who had participated in the demobilization and disarmament of the mercenary forces with the Hilario Sanchez gold medal in the First Class.

In addition, ONUCA Chief Div. Gen. Agustin Quesada praised the decisive support that the civilian and military authorities gave him during his stay in the conflict areas.

Quesada said that during the demobilization and disarmament of the contras, the ONUCA forces destroyed 15,000 weapons, "which will not harm any more lives again."

Foreign Ministry Employees Stage Work Stoppage

PA2206230590 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Sandinist workers and employees of the Foreign Ministry stopped working today to protest the dismissal of several employees who were fired because they could not be trusted and were considered detrimental to the ministry's interests.

A few days ago, the Foreign Ministry dismissed several section chiefs. According to Minister Enrique Dreyfus and reports by labor officials, they could not be trusted within the ministry.

According to reports, the Sandinist workers and employees still working at the ministry did not allow Carlos Castillo Fletes, the departmental labor inspector, to entef the ministry building. He had arrived to try to mediate in the conflict.

The work stoppage took place at 1000 today. According to Castillo, the workers proposed talks to discuss the reinstatement of the dismissed employees. The ministry representatives did not agree to this. Castillo Fletes said that the stoppage is considered illegal because the workers did not comply with the Labor Code requirements. They did not take all the necessary legal steps before announcing the stoppage.

Ministry officials said that they will not tolerate any more blackmail from the Sandinists. They said that the employees, who were dismissed for disorderly behavior and for hindering relations with countries friendly to the government of national salvation led by Violeta de Chamorro, will not be reinstated.

Panama

Endara Assesses Attendance at Antigua Summit

PA2306184590 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany, his wife Ana Mae Diaz de Endara, and his delegation arrived in Panama on the night of 19 June on board a flight from Guatemala City. Upon his arrival, President Endara granted a brief news conference, during which he gave details about his participation as an observer in the Central American summit.

[Begin recording] The Central American summit is a logical result of the progress made by the Central American peace and democratization process. For the first time in the history of the Central American isthmus, there are six Central American presidents elected by the people. Somebody made the observation that the six presidents had come from the opposition parties of their countries, which is also very significant.

Central America must now head toward its economic development. During their meetings, the presidents cited a phrase used by the Pope, who said that the new name of peace is development. Therefore, the presidents' main concern during the summit was economic development in the region and Central American economic integration.

As you all know, I attended the summit as an observer. For many, many years we have not heard about economic integration in Panama. I do not think that any government, especially a democratic government like the one that exists in Panama now, can adopt a definite

position regarding Central American integration before discussing this issue with the people. I believe the Panamanian people must discuss the issue of Latin American integration and other issues linked to our economic relations with the Central American countries. We must reach a national consensus on these issues to then adopt a definite position before the other countries. [end recording]

President, Chorrillo Refugees Sign Agreement

PA2306200490 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Jun 90 p 2

[Agreement signed by President Guillermo Endara and the Committee of El Chorrillo Refugees in Panama City on 20 June]

[Text] Following a candid exchange of views on the current problems between the refugees of El Chorrillo of 20 December 1989 and the national government, the two sides agree to the following:

1. The president of the Republic confirms that a fundamental point of his government's program is the reconstruction of El Chorrillo, so that it may once again become the home of Chorrillo residents. In addition, he acknowledges that Chorrillo residents are entitled to relocate themselves to a place of their choice and not return to live in El Chorrillo.

2. The two sides agree to appoint a high-level commission made up of representatives of the church, the refugees, the government, the Panamanian Chamber of Construction, and the Chorrillo Board of Trustees [Patronato del Chorrillo]. The high-level commission will work at the presidential offices, and its purpose will be to find solutions to the housing problems of the refugees and to watch over their well-being in every respect. The commission will be tasked with facilitating the reconstruction of El Chorrillo and removing all obstacles that may delay this reconstruction. In addition, it will attend to other matters presented to it that may be of special interest to the refugees.

3. The president of the Republic will instruct the respective officials to ensure that any fund drives and raffles purportedly held for the benefit of the refugees will in fact result in such benefit. In addition, the president of the Republic will ask the comptroller general's office to make sure that donations made for the benefit of refugees will reach such refugees.

4. The president will continue to insist with all members of the executive branch to respect the rights and reputations of all citizens, particularly those of the refugees and their leaders.

5. The Committee of El Chorrillo Refugees pledges before the president of the Republic to continue their efforts in a peaceful and civic way and to remain open to a dialogue at all times.

Office of the President of the Republic, 20 June 1990

For the Committee of El Chorrillo Refugees [no signatures as published]
Guillermo Endara Galimany
President of the Republic.

Editorial Urges Patience for Chorrillo Residents

PA2306002490 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Other Side of the Coin"]

[Text] Hundreds of people, conveniently stirred up, took to the streets yesterday to stage a protest, taking advantage of the fact that we now have a democratic government that permits these types of demonstrations and the right to disagree with the government policy. Seven months ago, a demonstration like yesterday's would have been violently repressed by riot units, known as Dobermen or Centurions, the feared shock troops of Noriega's tyranny. Democracy and dictatorship are two opposite poles.

Antigovernment slogans were chanted yesterday and nothing happened. Seven months ago, G-2 agents would have photographed and arrested all those caught insulting dictator Noriega. Those arrested would have had to pay large sums of money to gain their freedom because they would have been arrested for actions against the state's internal security. No one was arrested in yesterday's march.

Six months have passed since the government changed, and the Chorrillo people have made their desperation evident. They have even allowed themselves to be used by individuals who have been displaced from power and are feeling vengeful. They are being used to pressure the national government into providing quick solutions for the problems the government inherited from those who are pushing them into these actions now. The old Chorrillo—the Chorrillo of old condemned houses, illegal lottery, promiscuity, and corruption—will never be the same again. Those who exploited our people's misery are now ancient history to the old Chorrillo. It is the Chorrillo that was swept away by fate and that provoked the arrogance of a tyrant who was reduced to ashes. Chorrillo will never be like yesterday again because the good and decent people of that community have a right to progress. The Chorrillo people must understand that. They must understand that there are stages that must be overcome. They must understand that they cannot go back to illegal electric and water connections in order to avoid paying those bills. They must realize that vice on the street corners, not paying rent, and neighborhood bars must end.

It is a shame that the Chorrillo people did not reach a truce with the national government and have allowed individuals who dislike democracy to increase their desperation. They lived in misery under the dictatorship for 21 years and now, in six months, they want immediate solutions when the country has not even received the promised foreign aid yet. We understand that it is

difficult to live in the Albrook hangars and under the conditions they are living, but those are only temporary solutions. The effort of the Chorrillo refugees is required because it was not the current government that made them lose their homes. It was the fault of the dictator who dared defy a big power like the United States and foolishly declare war on it. Noriega and his underlings are to blame for the conditions of the victims or "war refugees," as they want to be called.

We have criticized and seriously questioned the government, but there are occasions on which the masses are not right, and this is one of them. They must be told the truth. Do not let others use you. We know that we are going through difficult times. We know that there is a certain slowness on the part of the government; however, we feel that with everyone's efforts we can lead the country to a better way. We must be less indolent. We must not expect the government to solve all the problems, and we should have faith in the administrative ability of those who govern us.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Revealed

PA2406192490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 90 p 23-A

[Constitutional amendments submitted by the Executive Branch for approval by the Legislative Assembly]

[Text] Index of Proposed Amendments

Preamble
1. Title I. The Panamanian State-Article 2.
2. Title II. Nationality and status of an alien-Article 11.
3. Title III. Individual and social rights.
Chapter One-Individual rights-Article 34.
(Social rights)
Chapter Three-Labor-Article 73.
Chapter Five-Education-Articles 90, 91, 95, 97, 99, and 103.
Chapter Six - Health, Social Security, Social Welfare - Articles 109 and 111.
4. Title V. The Legislative Branch.
Chapter One - The National Assembly, Articles 140, 153 (numeral 17).
5. Title VI. The Executive Branch.
Chapter One - President and vice presidents of the Republic, Article 179 (numerals 2 and 3).
Chapter Four - The General State Council, Article 196.
8. Title X. National Economy, Article 292.
9. Title XI. The Government Employees.
Chapter One - Basic Provisions, Article 299.
Chapter Three - Organization of Personnel Administration, Article 300, (numeral 6).
10. Title XII. The Public Force, Articles 305 and 306.
11. Title XIV. Final Provisions, Articles 309 and 311.
The 1991 Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama. Preamble]

With the supreme purpose of:
Maintaining the sovereignty of the State, its territorial integrity, and national unity;
Ensuring freedom, peace, stability, and social justice;
Exalting human dignity, promoting social welfare for all, and fomenting the development of the economy in the service of all the social sectors;
Guaranteeing equality for all before the eyes of the law without discrimination;
Abolishing the dictatorial, autocratic, and authoritarian regimes based on force, arbitrariness, and corruption;
Establishing a state of law and a participative, pluralist, and civic democracy based on respect of man and in the legitimate interests of the vast majorities;
Cooperating with the other states, especially with those of the American Continent, on the basis of reciprocal respect for national sovereignty, self-determination of the peoples, and human rights guarantees;
The Panamanian people, in view of the Constitutional Act agreed upon in two successive legislatures by the National Assembly and invoking the protection of God, issues and approves, by means of a referendum, this Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama. Title I
The Panamanian State
Article 2 - Sovereignty rests in the people. The power emanating from it is exercised by the state as established in this Constitution, through the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, that act within limits and separately, but in harmonious cooperation.

Title II
Nationality and Status of an Alien
Article 11 - An individual adopted before his seventh birthday by Panamanians residing in Panama will acquire Panamanian citizenship without the need of naturalization papers.

Title III
Individual and Social Rights
Chapter One - Individual Human Rights.
Article 34 - If a person knowingly breaks a constitutional or legal precept to the detriment of another person, the person who committed the violation will not be exempt from liability on the basis of having followed higher orders.
Chapters Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, and Eight. (Social Rights).

Chapter Three
Labor
Article 73 - All controversies stemming from relations between capital and labor fall under the special labor jurisdiction and will be handled according to the law.

The appointment of magistrates for the special labor jurisdiction will be the duty of the Supreme Court of Justice. The law will determine the procedures to be followed in these cases, and these will be subjected to the three party principle represented by the government, labor unions, and management.

Chapter Five
Education

Warning: The amendment made to articles 90, 97, and 103 is only to change the phrase public education to government-funded education.
Article 90 - (Second paragraph)
Government-funded education is provided by the state whereas privately funded education is provided by private persons or entities.
Article 90 - (Last paragraph)
The law will regulate the government-funded as well as the privately funded education.
Article 91 - Government-funded education is free at all pre-university levels. The first level of education is obligatory.
Free education means that the state must provide the student with all the necessary tools for his learning process. Free education does not preclude the establishment of a tuition fee at nonobligatory levels.
Article 95 - Only those academic and professional titles given by the state or authorized by the state in accord with the law will be recognized. The government-funded universities will supervise the privately funded universities approved by the government to guarantee the titles given by these universities, and will also revalidate titles given by a foreign university in those cases established in the law.
Article 97 - The law can create economic incentives to benefit government-funded and privately funded education as well as for the edition of national didactic works.
Article 99 - The republic's government-funded universities are autonomous. The universities have legal status, their own assets, and are self-managed. The universities are authorized to organize their curriculum and to appoint and remove personnel in the manner the law establishes. They will include in their curriculum the study of national problems and will disseminate national culture. The same importance given to university education in the capital city will be given to university education at regional campuses.
Article 103 - Catholic religion will be taught at all government-funded schools, but, when requested by parents or guardians, the student will not be obligated to attend classes or religious events and ceremonies.

Chapter Six
Health, Social Security, and Social Welfare
Article 109 - The individual has the right to the protection of his economic means of livelihood in case of a disability or to receive workman's compensation.
One or more autonomous and decentralized state-owned institutions with legal statutes and funds and reserves into which the state, the employer, and the employee are obliged to pay will provide social security services that will cover illness, maternity leave, family compensation, disability, old age, widowhood, orphan allowance, forced work stoppage, accidents in the line of duty, occupational disease, and other job-related contingencies that must be covered by social security. Said funds and reserves may not be used for any other purpose than that for which they were created.
The state will create medical and social welfare facilities. The main duty of these facilities will be to provide economic and social services to those persons covered by the plan, those lacking resources, mental and chronically ill patients, destitute invalids, and those groups that have not been incorporated into the social security system.

Article 111 - The government's health sectors, including their autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions, will join to ensure the health of the entire population. The law will regulate the terms and conditions under which the services offered by the central government and the autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions will be reciprocally and equitably complemented and compensated.

Title V
The Legislative Branch
Chapter One
The National Assembly
Article 140 - The legislative branch will consist of a body called the National Assembly, whose members will be called deputies and who will be elected through party nomination and popular vote.

Note: The words Legislative Assembly will be replaced by those of National Assembly in all articles and precepts of the Constitution where those words appear. Likewise, the word legislators will be replaced by that of deputies in all articles and precepts of the Constitution where that word appears.
Article 153
Numeral 5 - Declare war and authorize the executive branch to ensure national defense and make peace.
Numeral 18 - Establishes the number of armed personnel.

Title VI
The Executive Branch
Chapter One
President and vice president of the Republic
Article 179 - It is the duty of the president of the Republic, with the participation of the respective minister, to:
2. Appoint and remove directors and other members of the police force and decide on the use of the same.
13. Promote members of the police force according to the promotion roster and the appropriate legal provisions.

Chapter Four
General Government Council
Article 196 - The General Government Council is the formal meeting of the president of the Republic, who will preside over the meeting, of the vice presisdents of the Republic, the president of the National Assembly, ministers, general directors of autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions, and the comptroller general of the Republic.

Title X
The National Economy
Article 292 - The law will regulate all games and activities that involve betting, despite the system used for this. The exploitation of games of chance can only be done by the state or through administrative concessions controlled and supervised by the executive branch as long as the necessary restrictions are placed on the concessionaire to ensure that the country's interests are not affected. By law, official lotteries managed by the state for charity and social welfare purposes can be established.

Title XI
Government Employees
Chapter One
Fundamental Provisions
Article 299 - In accord with the Fiscal Code, the president and the vice presidents of the Republic; the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates; the ordinary and special courts; the attorney general and the attorney general of the administration; the judges; the ministers; the comptroller general of the Republic; the president of the National Assembly; the general directors, managers and heads of autonomous institutions; the national and provincial directors of the police force, and government employees or officials must, at the beginning and at the end of their term in office, submit a sworn statement of personal assets.
A notary will provide this service at no charge.
This provision will be enforced immediately and does not preclude subsequent regulation by law.

Chapter Three
Organization of Personnel Administration
Article 300 - The following government careers are instituted in accord with the principles of the merit system:
6. The police career.

Title XII
The Public Force
Article 305 - The Republic of Panama will not have an army. To maintain public order; protect the lives, honor, and property of those who are under the jurisdiction of the state; and for the prevention of criminal actions, the law will establish the services of the necessary police forces with separate command and career structures and without administration, financial, and procurement autonomy.

The president of the Republic will be the supreme commander of all the police forces. These, as agents of the authority, will be subordinated to civilian power and therefore will follow the orders issued in the fulfillment of their duties by the national, provincial, or municipal authorities.
Article 306 - The members of the police forces will not make individual or group decisions, demonstrate, or make public statements. They will not participate in party politics or vote in an election. Violation of these laws will result in the immediate removal from office as well as punishment as established in the law.

Title XIV
Final Provisions
Article 309 - This Constitution will not lose its authentic validity if allegedly abolished or amended through an act of force or fraudulent manipulation. In these cases, each citizen, with or without vested power, is duty bound to help maintain or reestablish the effective validity of the Constitution's legitimate order.

Individuals involved in actions stated in the aforementioned paragraph, as well as the principal officials who did not contribute to immediately restore the power of the Constitution and of the authorities included in it, will be tried according to this Constitution and the law.

The time in office of officials serving during the period when the Constitution was being disregarded will not be taken into consideration for retirement purposes and said official will return the salary he received during that period. The National Assembly can decree, with the approval of absolute majority of its members, the seizure of the property of those who have enriched themselves by betraying the people's sovereignty or by usurping public power, to compensate the republic for damage caused by this betrayal or usurpation.

There will be no statute of limitation to take action against those responsible for violating this article.
Article 311-This 1991 Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama will be enforced as of the day of its promulgation by the executive branch.

Columnist Attacks Constitutional Amendments

PA2306001990 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jun 90 p 4

["Period...and That's It" column by Jaime Ortega]

[Text] I have learned that some of Endara's most famous sycophants have begun to publicly say that the stale constitutional amendments must pass. These are amendments our people are unfamiliar with, and no one considers them complete. This is typical. The sycophants who made such statement cannot speak any other way because they cannot bite the hand that feeds them. I say this because if the comptroller general decided to publish the list requested by Arias de Para on nepotism in the government, these sycophants would be exposed because each of the seven or eight relatives they have working in the government is costing the treasury thousands of dollars per month.

In another column I will decide whether or not to publish their names and salaries. For the time being, we only want to tell these sycophants that the fatherland is above any presidential whim.

Although it is true that when Attorney General Cruz was going to be appointed, it was said that he would be ratified in his position regardless of the consequences that such appointment would bring, it is also true that the constitutional amendments are a bomb that will explode right in their faces. It seems that the famous sycophants are unaware of two important things: first, this country no longer believes in sirens' songs, and second, although the amendments are not well known, the media, at least this column, will explain them so that everyone will know what they are about.

Those of us in the media, who are really interested in Panama's welfare and not in nepotism, must explain why the Legislative Assembly should not pass the stale amendments, even if they are approved by men who are benefitting at the government's expense, but who have not taken into consideration the second reason, which is the most important one. The stale constitutional amendments must be put to a plebiscite or a referendum, where the country

will decide, supposedly in free elections, whether the amendments should be approved or not. This is important for the government because barely half a year has gone by, and the government enjoys no credibility. What will happen when the amendments are finally submitted to the Panamanian people for their approval?

We do not doubt that the amendments will be passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly, which has already showed what it is capable of doing when it ratified Attorney General Rogelio Cruz in his post, but I repeat: "There are many slips between the cup and the lips," and the sycophants will drink champagne on the day that the legislators will receive the instructions on how to vote on the amendments, and they could care less about anything, let alone the fatherland.

Then will come the story of the merengue song, the donkey, and the turkey—the donkey laughs at the turkey just before Christmas day—when the amendments are decided in a plebiscite in December, January, or February. We are sure that the people who, in this case, think they are the turkey, will not be killed for Christmas, New Year's, or Carnival because that is when the country will stand up in unity and reject not only the stale amendments, but also condemn the way in which the current regime is conducting business. We know that the amendments serve as a cover for the foreign demands made by Dan Quayle and sung by the South American chorus.

The sycophants have used poorly drafted reforms thinking the country will approve them. Do not fool yourselves Mr. sycophants. You can pass the stale amendments quicker than you can pass the measures to eliminate the 11 October holiday, but the story does not end there. When the plebiscite or referendum comes along, then we will see if the people are right or if the sycophants will get their way. Time will tell. Period...and that is it.

Column Criticizes Work of President Endara

PA2406012090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jun 90 p 26-A

[From "Counterpoint" column by Jorge Gamboa Arosemena: "Endara Is Not a Civic Crusader"]

[Text] On the day of the Civic Crusade march, one of the speakers referred to the president as the leader of the Civic Crusade movement, as the biggest civic crusader.

These remarks violently struck the consciences of many of the people who attended the event, who exclaimed to the contrary.

The president was hooted, no one paid attention to his speech, and he was told to act and to stop smiling. The president was not acknowledged as the civic crusaders' leader.

It is true that during one stage of the struggle, Mr. Endara's behavior was relatively equal to what a civic crusader's behavior should be. However, the 20 December bombings were enough to start turning a civic crusade president's hopes into frustration, even though he was imposed by the gringo military.

From his position of power, Endara revived the unburied remains of the Defense Forces and with his entire cabinet started promoting an armed corps with the Defense Force troops who had not been detained by the Americans. He appeared in radio and television ads calling for reconciliation with the same individuals who had been accomplices to 21 years of dictatorship; he allowed subordinates to defend military men when strong accusations were leveled against them. He has not promoted the slightest investigation of the 700 officers Cisneros has allowed to join the fabricated Public Force.

Now he has awarded these officers a decree that violates the Torrijista constitution, which the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] loves, in an attempt to allow them to retire with 20 years of service. The decree is as an excuse to get rid of a number of officers who, we imagine, are undesirable, and who neither his cabinet nor he have dared to fire or take—at least the most criminal among them—to trial.

Concerning justice, very little has been done. Endara proposed an individual linked to the past as attorney general; when this individual showed his ties to the "revolutionary process," Endara confirmed his faith in him. Following his ratification by the Assembly, the attorney general's downward fall rapidly gained speed, but it was too late for the president to correct his mistakes and now it is up to the people to demand the attorney general's resignation.

To seek reconciliation is one thing and to be lacking in character is another. Endara has named many civilians who took advantage of the dictatorship and are as guilty as the military to his closest and not-so-close teams. He has allowed nepotism, and he has permitted political opportunism.

The masses may not be currently thinking of raising our sovereign independence with dignity, but since Endara is a politician who intends to govern this nation, we cannot forgive his inability to guide the people's national pride and to stave off feelings of subordination and dependence.

Our lack of democracy is reflected in Endara's inclination toward constitutional reform instead of promoting a new constitution.

Let us not discuss the social debt that neither he nor his government have attempted to begin paying.

Endara will pay for the explosive social situation and the antidemocratic reform solution with an uprising against his government by the most frustrated and politicized citizens. It is then that he will attempt to hold on to a constituent assembly as if it were a life preserver, but because of the political upheaval this assembly will establish itself as all of the branches of power and displace Endara and his comrades-in-arms. What at this moment could be a parallel component and a great victory for Endara, in the future will be a component with full powers and his political grave.

Argentina

Further on Integration Accords With Peru

PY2206220190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2016 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jun (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and his Peruvian counterpart Guillermo Larco Cox today in the San Martin Palace signed an act that launches the Argentine-Peruvian Political and Integration Coordinating Committee in accordance with the Trujillo agreement that was signed on 10 October 1989.

In a news conference Cavallo pointed out: "The visit of the Peruvian foreign minister serves to launch the mechanism for political agreement and economic integration through one committee and two subcommittees which will work to implement future agreements and those already signed."

Cavallo also said that the subcommittee for economic affairs will cover trade, financing, and investments between the two countries. He added that Argentina will study a special request made by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry "to facilitate future negotiations with the newly-elected Peruvian Government."

In this regard Cavallo referred to "financing within the framework of the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] and to a food assistance program." On this issue he said: "We promise to have an answer, following a study by the Economy Ministry, by the time President Carlos Saul Menem attends Alberto Fujimori's presidential inauguration."

Asked about the influence that the new Peruvian Government may have on Argentina, Cavallo recalled that during the Argentine electoral campaign "I called on people to vote for Menem but I also said that no matter who wins, Menem, Angeloz, or Alsogaray, they would have to implement the same economic measures."

Cavallo said that the there are different "political styles" that may relate to "policies specific to the different regions of the country, or to the workers, etc.," but not to economic issues. He added: "The same thing will happen in Peru. There are not many choices."

He also said that Argentina has supported and will continue to support "the struggle of the Peruvian Government against terrorism and the subversion of the Shining Path. In this regard he emphasized the "progress made by Peruvian President Alan Garcia."

Larco Cox said: "The negotiations to establish a steel industry have already concluded" within this framework. He added that "there are four more projects about ready for implementation," but he did not give details.

Larco Cox also said: "Regarding commercial activities, our governments have realized the benefits of stimulating the private sector. We recognize that state enterprises are necessary, but we use them for specific activities."

Argentine Ambassador to Peru Julian Licastro said: "Our relations with the president-elect are very good." He noted the sympathy shown by Fujimori toward Argentina, and noted that Fujimori even chose "Buenos Aires for his honeymoon with his wife Susana."

Licastro expects Fujimori and Menem to become "personal friends." He added that Fujimori's wife values "the social work that has been carried out in Argentina since the time of Eva Peron," and that the "traditional relations between the two countries will have a new stimulus.

Licastro labeled the Fujimori phenomenon as "a movement which reorganizes the forces" and as "a great political and social laboratory."

He added: "Fujimori's speech highlights elements like social agreement and, more specifically, a productive revolution."

Licastro noted the "great similarities between Fujimori's proposals" and those of Menem. He added that "the new government is the great hope for Peru" and that the elected president is "humble, capable, and proposes to work above party politics."

Licastro concluded by saying that he is trying to get Fujimori to agree to visit Argentina first as part of his future Latin American tour following his inauguration, thus "ratifying the brotherhood inherited from San Martin that exists between the two countries."

Bomb Explodes at Bank; 3 Policemen Injured

PY2206133090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1232 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jun (DYN)—A powerful bomb exploded shortly after 0900 today at a bank branch office in the metropolitan district of Villa Urquiza; three policemen were seriously injured.

The bomb was discovered by the police bomb squad at a Banco Rio branch office located at the intersection of Triunvirato and Heredia Streets.

A "Che Guevara Brigade" claimed responsibility for the bombing through a telephone call to the news agency DYN a few minutes after the bombing.

Brazil

Fernando Collor's Presidential Address to Nation

PY2306013090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Televisiondd in Portuguese 2300 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Speech to the nation by President Fernando Collor de Mello on the completion of 100 days in office; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Today my government completes its first 100 days of work, and I think this is the proper time to report to you for the first time. Brazil, as we are all aware, has started to change. It started to change with your vote, with the vote of the great majority who twice—in the first and second rounds of the election—elected the president of your country in a free and sovereign manner. I am certain that at that time we were also choosing a different way of life. We were choosing a new Brazil.

Brazil started to change right from the first day of this phase, which will represent a new era for all of us.

From my first day in office, each and every Brazilian citizen has been aware that this government will fulfill each and every commitment that has been made. Those who voiced their confidence in me at the ballot box were well aware of those commitments, well aware that our struggle was aimed at freeing the great majority of the Brazilian people from an inhuman and miserable way of life. You were aware that our government would primarily focus its attention on the peasants, the workers, and the homeless, on those who never owned anything. This is precisely what I have done right from the beginning, what I am doing now, and what I am going to do in the future.

Let's think. What state would our country be in today if the people had not decided to change their own future? What would our life be like today, fellow countrymen, had my government not loyally carried out the program approved at the ballot boxes, had we not had the courage to adopt drastic measures to curb inflation and to implement the goals that are changing Brazil's situation?

You all remember the situation we were enduring. People should not forget these circumstances, even as we now celebrate the great achievement of having reduced inflation from 84.3per month, a hyperinflation, to approximately eight percent per month. This is exactly what I promised during my electoral campaign. I made a promise and have fulfilled it. In the space of three months inflation has actually dropped below 10.

Let us now imagine that none of that had been done. Inflation, at least, would have continued the same behavior; that is, it would have continued to grow by almost 90per month. The family basket, the essential foodstuffs to feed a working family, cost 2,740 new cruzados on 15 March. Today, if inflation had continued to rise as in the past and had we not fought and managed to curb it, as we have done, that same family basket, instead of costing 2,740 new cruzados, would cost 17,167 cruzeiros, or 526more.

But thank God the situation today has changed. Inflation has crumbled and continues to drop. We had grown accustomed to inflation as part of our life. But we must stop believing that inflation cannot be curbed. It can and will be defeated. This will be possible as soon as the entire Brazilian society realizes that only we, together, with courage and determination, can build our future.

My fellow countrymen, those who still dream of the past are selfish people, people who never enjoyed a spirit of unity and love for fellow man, people only capable of defending their own privileges without worrying about the sufferings of the great majority. These people are not patriots, these people who have even forgotten the basic principles of Christian solidarity. But those of you who believed in our ideas and in our goals, and all of you who believe that we must struggle united, you, like me, believe in a better life and a new Brazil.

This is what the people say. We enjoy the vital support of a society which is greater today than the 35 million votes that elected me president. This is reflected in the signs of affection and support I continue to receive in the streets throughout this great country of ours. This shows that the great majority knows that the country has a government that defends national interests above any sectorial interests.

Exactly as I promised, we are constantly fighting against speculators and tax evaders. Those who lived off financial deals are now compelled to invest in the productive sector; it is no longer possible to play around with money and to live off speculation as it was before, with illegal speculation with the dollar on the black market, for example. We have set new rules—such as eliminating bearer checks—and have started to fulfill the duties of a government by collecting the corresponding fiscal contributions, or taxes.

In Brazil, my fellow countrymen, we are living like any civilized nation. Those who do not pay their taxes are aware that they will have to appear in court.

We are cutting government expenditures, following the example of modern and developed countries. Fellow countrymen, we have reduced the number of ministries by half. We are selling more than 50 state and autonomous enterprises in sectors where the government's presence was ineffective and absolutely unnecessary. We have radically eliminated privileges. The thousands of official vehicles, mansions, and other absurd privileges that existed in our country are now in the past. These measures are part of the promises I made to you at the beginning of my electoral campaign. They are aspects of the government plan approved by you that have been implemented and have proved efficient and effective.

My fellow countrymen, society must understand, however, that the plan is only one of many tools. I am convinced that from the beginning it was the best tool we had to face the dramatic situation the country was enduring. The choice was between the courageous attitudes we adopted and hyperinflation, unemployment, bankruptcy, shortages, and chaos.

Our final objectives are even more important than the economic plan. The plan's success is just a preliminary phase, the initial but decisive battle to help us achieve our objective of carrying out an authentic modernizing revolution in our country. My fellow countrymen, this means improving the living standards of each and every Brazilian citizen, because social justice is one of the

clearest signs of modernization. This is exactly what a modern country is: a country that can offer each and every citizen the chance for a decent life. It was precisely in this sense that Brazil has started to change. The peoples' mentality changed because practices changed.

The people realize that a country made up of easy ways out and abuses no longer exists when the government openly confronts, as we did, the catastrophic situation of our hospitals, and demands work and respect for human beings. Each Brazilian worker feels more respected as an individual when the government clearly shows, as we have, that it is fighting laziness and waste by recognizing good employees and even offering those who are being placed on availability status the chance of being reassigned; in sum, when the government moralizes the public service.

When we launch the housing program at the municipal level, with the purpose of reducing the great housing shortage that compels thousands of people neglected by society to live on the streets, each housewife will be able to feel happier and more secure.

When we resume the construction of projects such as the Xingo hydroelectric plant, which will free the northeastern region from the very serious possibility of rationed electricity, the people in every corner of this country will feel more protected as they see that regional differences are being reduced.

When the government decides, as we truly intend to do, to solve the problem of thousands of abandoned children and to create such an important program as the Childrens' Ministry, youths may once again have hope for the future.

Finally, when the government exercises its duties and assumes its responsibilities by fully respecting the Constitution, maintaining a dialogue with Congress, and fully respecting the decisions of the judicial branch, we will all know that we live in a true democracy where each and every established power freely exercises its functions for the well-being of the nation.

I am well aware that the first days of my government demanded individual sacrifices from many. The truth is that it could not be otherwise. I never promised a rose garden; this makes speeches by the irresponsible into speeches by opportunists.

I decided that harsh measures would be taken because Brazil cannot greet the 21st Century with the burden of a mentality and structure that belongs to the 19th Century.

We were truly tired of being a country with nothing to hope for, a country with two entirely different realities, a country of the future. The future, my fellow countrymen, is now. Brazil, as you well know, has already started to change. We cannot and will never again be listed as a violent country in Amnesty International reports. Our society does not tolerate violence and we will not accept any violations of human rights in the new Brazil.

I hope that the states of the Federation will support the Federal Government in the struggle against any form of violence. Our state police forces must be fully reorganized and modernized. I am sure that the judicial branch will fully cooperate in this new search for order and peace, which will be fully supported by the executive branch and by me personally.

Fellow countrymen, the government has done a lot and will do a lot more, but it cannot do everything alone. The government, which represents the peoples' will, is in charge of leading the various sectors of society in the search for a higher objective: to definitively move Brazil out of backwardness, misery, and underdevelopment.

I am now appealing to the citizenry. I am appealing to all of you. I once again urge consumers not to pay unnecessarily high prices. I assure you that there is no real reason for price increases. If you refuse to purchase, if you leave your shopping for later on, prices will necessarily have to drop, and they will drop.

I strongly hope that businessmen will avoid price adjustments and that they will share the cost of this adjustment phase. Lower profits today will undoubtedly represent the only guarantee for solid and long-lasting profits in the future.

I urge the workers to maintain the sense of responsibility that the great majority has shown so far. Brazil has a historic, social, and moral debt to the workers. Because I know how this debt seriously affects the lives of each and every one of you who needs and deserves a better salary, I also want to make this appeal for your participation as a special message of gratitude to you Brazilian workers, especially the most humble ones.

The intransigent attitude of a few prevented us from signing, as we desired, a democratic agreement between the government, workers, businessmen, and consumers; in sum, everyone. The government, however, will not allow the great majority to be harmed. Next week we will submit a salary adjustment to Congress to make up for the loss of the workers' purchasing power in the period prior to our government. This proposal, however, will not go against our priority goal: the final defeat of inflation.

My fellow countrymen, during this coming week we will also submit the directives of the industrial and trade policies that will define the outlines of our economic development and the way in which we will insert Brazil into the modern world.

We have overcome the harshest tests, my fellow countrymen. We need to continue to believe in Brazil, to have more confidence in it. The country needs this confidence and the contributions of all Brazilians.

Brazil as a country has already achieved its desire to live in freedom. Now, Brazilian citizens, with the help of

God, each of us is going to experience real freedom, and my fellow countrymen will once again have hope in a better future for all of us.

President, Cabinet Evaluate First 100 Days

PY2306235690 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguesedd 23 Jun 90 p 6

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Brasilia—On 22 June President Fernando Collor expressly recommended that his team not lose faith because it has his solidarity. During a cabinet meeting held to evaluate the government's first 100 days, Collor lauded the unity of his team and recommended that it stick to the government's projects and objectives.

"Do not be despondent about the troublesome criticism. Two opinions exist in Brazil: public opinion and published opinion," the president said during a 40-minute address that closed the cabinet meeting. He admitted that his government is the target of criticism that he considers unjust.

The meeting, which ran from 1010 to 1500, was held at Planalto Palace. Each minister and secretary made an evaluation of his sector—some of them surpassing the 10 minutes given them by the president—while others distributed written evaluations. Jose Ignacio, the government leader in the Senate, and Vice President Itamar Franco also participated in the meeting.

The president considered the results of the first 100 days to be very good:

"This is the path. But, it is only the beginning."

In his address, Collor lauded Congress and the judicial branch, "which have handed me setbacks during the past 15 days," stressing that the two branches are carrying out their role. He did not admit that he had been defeated by the two branches, although Congress has rejected Provisional Measure 185 and the judicial branch has declared Provisional Measure 190 unconstitutional.

"We must accept the dissent not as a defeat but as more of a harmonious exercise between the branches. From here on it will always be like that.

The tone of the address was optimistic; there was no criticism, not even about the progress of the administrative reform. The military, health, and justice ministers are the ones who have done most of the work on the administrative reform. According to Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, there were several demonstrations of appreciation and understanding regarding the difficulties that [Administrative Secretary] Joao Santana has had to face and the gentlemanly way he has behaved.

According to Rezek, like the other ministers Zelia Cardoso de Mello has demonstrated that she is very sure about what she is doing, but she cited precautions that are necessary for the progress of the plan. Collor said that he is absolutely convinced about the control of inflation, and he stressed that it is not down to zero yet due to "inflationary habits."

The ministers and secretaries spoke about the number of public employees that have been placed at the disposal of their ministries or have been fired.

Collor said that "it is simple and simplistic to confuse administrative reform with dismissals and placing people on a disposable list. This is only a small part of the reform that I intend to promote to cut the costs of the apparatus and make it efficient."

The following did not participate in the meeting: Sports Secretary Zico [Artur Antunes Coimbra], (he is in Italy as a commentator covering the World Cup Championship); Environment Secretary Jose Lutzenberger (he is traveling to Rio Grande do Sul State); General Adviser Celio Silva (he is in Sao Paulo); and Renan Calheiros, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, who was given permission to oversee the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] convention that on 24 June will nominate him to serve as Alagoas State governor.

Chile

Further on Aylwin News Conference at La Moneda

PY2206163790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic has expressed his conviction that after his 100 days in office the most important thing for Chileans is to feel that they are living in a free country, that Chileans are respected as persons, and that the people can express themselves. This was essentially the conclusion of a news conference for national and foreign journalists that the president of the republic held at the La Moneda Palace.

The news conference began with a message of optimism and hope, although the president of the Republic admitted that the first 100 days of government are always the easiest because the atmosphere is still favorable to the new government. At the same time, however, the first 100 days are the most difficult because they represent an apprenticeship.

Afterward, the president of the Republic entertained questions that focused on the economy, drug trafficking, the Pisagua affair, the situation of the political prisoners, the talks with Pinochet, and the issue of who should assume their share of responsibility for the 1973 crisis, as well as other subjects.

Concerning the last question, Aylwin emphasized that there are different responsibilities: political and penal ones. Concerning the political responsibilities, all of us who participated in the democratic period are responsible. Concerning penal responsibilities, the situation is different, he said, emphasizing that there was a violent confrontation.

On the other hand, the president of the Republic harbored a hope that the draft bills on amnesty for political prisoners will become law before next spring—hopefully within two months. [passage omitted]

The president of the Republic also reiterated that he has not discussed any accord or pact with General Pinochet, because it is not appropriate for military authorities to get involved in decisions of a political nature. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, Aylwin denied that there are different opinions among the coalition parties concerning the effectiveness of the amnesty law. [passage omitted]

Colombia's Incumbent Barco Arrives in Santiago

PY2506021090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Santiago, 24 Jun (EFE)—Upon arriving in Chile, Colombian President Virgilio Barco has said that he will inform Chilean President Patricio Aylwin on the actions the Colombian Government is taking in the struggle against drug trafficking. Barco is making a two-day official visit to Chile.

The Colombian president, who looked tired and whose voice was barely audible, talked briefly with the local media in Santiago's international airport, where he was received by the Chilean president, Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, and nearly all the members of the Chilean cabinet.

Virgilio Barco said that the subject of drug trafficking "is a disagreeable problem that harms Colombia very much." He added that he was very interested in informing the Chilean Government "about what we are doing in the struggle we undertook, our progress, and how we think we are helping to defend Colombian youth, the Colombian people, and all those affected by this situation."

The Colombian president said he was very happy to be in Santiago, where he will remain until next 26 June. He described this visit as being "of special importance, gratitude, and great interest."

Virgilio Barco stressed that Chile has always been a great friend of Colombia, since it has always given help and cooperation in several ways. When asked about the strengthening of ties between the two countries, the Colombian president answered that as long as maritime transportation develops, cooperation ties will strengthen.

Aylwin will receive Barco in a special audience tomorrow in La Moneda Palace. Barco will later have lunch with Senate President Gabriel Valdes. Tomorrow President Aylwin will decorate Barco with the collar of the Chilean Order of Merit, while on Tuesday Barco will decorate Aylwin with the Great Collar of the Order of Bocaya.

The two presidents will sign a joint declaration which will refer to the struggle against drug trafficking and the Andres Bello Treaty. This treaty between Chile and Colombia provides for increased cultural integration and cooperation.

Colombia

Presidents Barco, Perez Discuss Border Agreement

PA2306034690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0059 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco travelled to Caracas today to install the commissions in charge of developing methods to deal with five main areas of concern for the two countries. Pedro Gomez Valderrama, Douglas Botero Boffil, and Diego Montana Cuellar represent the Colombian commission, and Reinaldo Leandro Mora, Hilarion Cardozo, and Pompeyo Marquez represent the Venezuelan commission. The commissions will study the following issues: the international hydrographic basins; the delimitation of marine and submarine areas; international rivers; the demarcation of borders; and migration in accordance with the San Pedro Alejandrino Act signed by the two presidents in March.

Regarding current bilateral relations, Barco said the following.

[Begin Barco recording] We are introducing a new, dynamic, faithful, and constructive relationship within our continent and within the world.

The traditional exchange of brief messages—which took place for decades—has now been replaced by refreshed, friendly, and polite communication. We should now exchange messages on integration and political cooperation. We should ignore newspaper reports written by a few people who thrive on the animosity between our two countries and who take every opportunity to incite our people and some national institutions. Undoubtedly, the issue concerning delimitation of the marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela elicits the greatest attention from the Colombian and Venezuelan people.

Mr. President, today—watched by America—we are accepting the challenge to forever dispel the misunderstandings that have existed between our two countries because of our geographical proximity. Let us join our efforts. With courage, intelligence, and an effort consistent with the new political and economic developments in Latin America and the world, we can bring an end to our marine delimitation problem. We cannot let this problem become the backbone of our relations. Mr. President, let us do away with feelings of distrust and bitterness over an affair that is more emotional than real. The stand that our governments finally adopt should not produce winners or losers. It should produce fraternity, peace, and common integration.

Our negotiating commissions have another challenge before them. This one is extremely important for the well-being of millions of Colombians and Venezuelans. This challenge deals with the preservation, protection, and overall development of the common basins whose fast deterioration we are helplessly witnessing. This problem could affect our fellow countrymen very seriously because fishing and sailing activities could easily disappear with the threat of erosion and the progressive loss of resources. Floods during the rainy season level the peasants' small plots of land and destroy their homes on both sides of the border.

The joint struggle against terrorism and drug trafficking is also more important than any disagreements between our countries. These two problems drastically hurt our economies; disturb our societies; and affect the children, teenagers, men, and women in both our countries. Cooperation on border issues, health issues, and agricultural and livestock issues are also very important in our communities. Therefore, the commissions that we are installing today have a fundamental challenge to build a lasting friendship between our countries and to improve the well-being of our citizens. We will achieve this. As you said, my dear friend, let's get down to business. [applause] [end recording]

Agreeing with the statements of Colombian President Barco, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said:

[Begin Perez recording] During these times when there is great concern over environmental issues and when man is discovering that the world can come to an end—not because of natural forces but because of decisions made by men who determine our peoples' destinies—how can Venezuelans and Colombians not realize that our hydrographic basins are very important for our two countries?

How can Venezuelans and Colombians fail to understand that to think about Latin American integration, which we currentlly consider a basic need for our countries, we have to carry out our own integration first. Our borders and our two countries must be united first. Our two economies must first become complements of each other to find solutions that will strengthen our two nations. How can we fail to realize that we have common health problems and that the problems that affect one nation will also affect the other? How can we remain stuck with the artifical borders that were set up by the Spanish conquerors when they came and established borders in our countries—without taking into account the physical and geographic realities of our territorries? How can we fail to take into consideration the lives of the people who live in our border areas? Regardless of the concept of sovereignty, our people have to live, coexist, grow, function, and help each other in those border areas. All these issues can no longer remain unsolved. We must carry out definitive actions to unite our peoples.

President Barco, I want to thank you personally and on behalf of the Venezuelan Government and people for coming here—especially now that the end of your presidential mandate is approaching—to confirm your resolve and enthusiasm in helping the Venezuelan and Colombian people live up to their great destiny. Thank you very much, Mr. President. [applause] [end recording]

Barco Departs for Chile on Official Visit

PA2406175090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1634 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jun (DPA)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco left this morning for Santiago, Chile, for a three-day official visit in response to an invitation from Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

This is Barco's last trip abroad as president of Colombia. It is also the first time in 16 years that a Colombian chief of state has visited Chile.

President Barco left at 1000 (1500 GMT). He is accompanied by his wife, Foreign Minister Julio Londono, Development Minister Maria Mercedes Cuellar, and other prominent figures. He is scheduled to arrive in Chile at 2100 GMT.

Barco and Aylwin will review bilateral relations and the Latin American situation. The Colombian Foreign Ministry has reported that the two chiefs of state will sign trade agreements.

The Colombian president will also meet with Chilean justices and legislators and will place wreaths of flowers at the monuments for Bernardo O'Higgins and Simon Bolivar.

President-Elect Gaviria on Issues Facing Nation

PY2306200090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Interview with President-elect Cesar Gaviria Trujillo by Maria Carmenza and an unidentified reporter during "The Force of History" program on Bogota Cadena 2 Centro TV; "special service" for Peruvian Radio and Television; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Carmenza] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to "The Force of History." Dr. Cesar Gaviria, good evening, welcome to our program. Tell me something: did you think one year ago that you would be involved in all these comings and goings, commitments, programs and responsibilities?

[Gaviria] Certainly not, Maria Carmenza. I did not even think about this because I had made a political decision to support Luis Carlos Galan, to direct all my assistance, my efforts, my knowledge, and my abilities to give Luis Carlos a chance of becoming the president of Colombia. Thus, I am here because of fate rather than a personal desire to become president of the nation.

[Reporter] Dr. Gaviria, wouldn't you say that excessive rhetoric in Colombia, and in Latin America as a whole, is to blame for the lack of decisions? In the face of events,

statements are uttered and ideas are expressed but no decisions are made and our country stays the same year after year.

[Gaviria] You are absolutely right, that is the way it is. We Colombians love to say things and argue about what should be done, but the people do not act, they are not convinced that problems cannot be solved by merely talking about them. Decisions must be made, they have to be timely. One has to run risks, even chance the loss of popularity and the difficulties implied in the making of decisions. We must make decisions because Colombian problems will be solved only if the right decisions are made.

The problems that violence causes call for decisions. Criminal organizations must be fought, not discussed. There is no point in talking about the number of casualties on each side or the violence that we have endured from these organizations. We must make decisions.

We cannot have thousands of fatal casualties while the politicians keep talking about our great toll. Yes, our toll has been great, but not because we have tried to deal with our problems. We have paid the toll without facing up to the problems.

[Carmenza] In a recent television interview former President Lopez Michelsen has stated that the Liberal Party should not be blamed for the ineffectiveness of security organizations. To make his point concerning the need for reorganizing and restructuring these security organizations, Lopez Michelsen mentioned the fact that Churchill had to replace commanding officers three times until he found Montgomery. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Gaviria] He certainly cannot be blamed for all the problems that these institutions are having. It is up for discussion whether the blame lies with the institutions, the men, or the policies and it is not easy to establish how much one must change the institutions, policies, and men.

In Colombia's specific case, there is no doubt that lack of intelligence is the main source of problems. Not all the problems can be resolved through the use of force or the Armed Forces. They are not military problems that can be resolved by merely deploying more Armed Forces units, or by increasing military actions. Colombians have failed to understand that our problems stem mainly from the lack of intelligence and investigation. The problem is to find who are responsible. That is the main thing.

We Colombians cannot get used to one presidential assassination per month to the point of just taking it in stride. No society or nation can endure something like this without breaking down. The security organizations must be more effective, because the time has come for we Colombians to call the people responsible for these organizations to account. They must demonstrate effectiveness and Dr. Lopez is absolutely right about this.

[Reporter] The security organizations claim that drug traffickers are to blame for 90 percent, or almost all the acts of violence in Colombia. Do you share this opinion?

[Gaviria] Well, in this country violence comes from many sources. The main source of violence is not drug trafficking, guerrillas, paramilitary groups, nor any other similar organization. Most acts of violence are common crimes, fights among citizens, or settlings of accounts that people take into their own hands because of the ineffectiveness of Colombian justice.

As for the problems that have to do with the powerful criminal organizations, it is true that drug traffickers are to blame for most of the violent deaths in the country, especially because of their links to paramilitary groups, which are responsible for most of the political assassinations in Colombia.

Paramilitary groups have killed almost five times as many people as the guerrillas. This shows the extent to which these paramilitary groups, frequently financed by drug traffickers, have become the main source of commotion in the nation. Because of this I have been insisting that we must rate the problem of the paramilitary groups as high as the problems of drug trafficking and guerrilla activity; it is a serious problem.

Whenever political assassinations—such as those of Jaramillo, Galan, Pizarro, and the others that have caused major upheavals in Colombia's way of life—are investigated, we find that paramilitary groups are involved; we find that this extremely disruptive force in Colombia's life is present.

[Carmenza] What is your dream for the country? How do see Colombia four years from now?

[Gaviria] I see it growing much faster than now, a country certain of its ability to grow. This is very important for Colombia. The country must feel assured that, despite all these violence-related problems, it will not stop, it will not become a decadent, stagnant society. We must understand that despite all these violence-related problems, Colombian society is very vital and dynamic and has enormous potential for growth. We must preserve these qualities and strengthen them by correcting our policies to allow the country to grow faster and to generate more jobs.

Violence will not disappear from one day to the next, but the people must feel assured that it will not hamper our development or Colombia's social and economic growth.

[Carmenza] Would this be the final message that you want to send to all Colombians through "The Force of History"?

[Gaviria] Of course. I believe that the great challenge that lies ahead for all Colombians is to stage a peaceful revolution of the entire Colombian way of life, to reorganize all these institutions and values that we have to govern and to work. For this we need an in-depth peaceful revolution, a revolution which cannot be staged

by a single man using the caudillo approach. It requires a deep feeling of participation and the conviction that whenever people are given a chance to make decisions, they make the right ones.

Paraguay

Congress Passes Bill Making 'Protest District'

PY2206155090 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
22 Jun 90 p 10

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies passed, by a large majority, a "protest district" [marchodromo] bill, which regulates public demonstrations in the downtown Asuncion area. The only opposition came from some deputies in the "democratic sector" of the Colorado Party bloc and in the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA].

Members of the Colorado orthodox sector, supporters of Edgar L. Ynsfran [first vice president of the Colorado Party], and supporters of Domingo Laino [president of the PLRA] endorsed the bill, which was passed earlier by the Senate, including some controversial articles requiring prior notice to the Asuncion police of any rally in the downtown area and giving the police the option, based on sound reasons, of banning it. [passage omitted]

One point of conflict that unleashed internal disagreement within congressional blocs was the requirement for giving prior notice to the police.

Article Six of the bill states: "Organizers of a public meeting or demonstration must notify—during office hours—the Asuncion police, or the appropriate police authority in the interior of the country, at least 24 hours ahead of the time when the meeting or demonstration is to be held."

Article Eight, another controversial article, states: "The respective police authority may state its opposition to the meeting no later than 12 hours after receiving the organizers' notice. The police opposition will stand only if it is given in writing to the organizers and if it is based on the fact that a third party has already given notice for a similar rally at the same place and time, in which case the organizers may choose a different place, date, and route."

The bill establishes another restriction: No public meeting or demonstrations can be held outside Lopez Palace or outside military or police barracks. Political, union, social, or cultural delegations of no more than 20 people may peacefully meet, however, outside the palace to make or submit requests to the executive branch.

Discussion of Stroessner Regime Violations Begins

PY2306230590 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
23 Jun 90 p 8

[Excerpts] The pretrial inquest session [sesion de instruccion] of the Permanent People's Court [Tribunal Permanente de los Pueblos—TPP] was declared open yesterday, and victims of cruel torture at the Investigative Police Department immediately gave their testimony. They said that people were tortured at the Investigative Police Department with electric prods, pools [where prisoners were submerged until they almost drowned], and needles under their fingernails, regardless of sex or age. They blamed General Alfredo Stroessner, [former Interior Minister] Edgar L. Ynsfran, [former Investigative Police Chief] Ramon Duarte Vera, [former Investigative Police Chief] Pastor Coronel, Alberto Planas, Victor Martinez, Lucilo Benitez, Camilo Almada Morel (alias Sapriza), [former Interior Minister] Sabino Augusto Montanaro, and [former Police Chief] General Britez Borges.

The pretrial inquest session of the TPP was declared open at 1730 yesterday at the Salesianito [Society of St. Francis de Sales] building. This court's objective is to clarify the crimes against humanity committed by the regime of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner. Before the pretrial inquest session of this special court was declared open, Archbishop Emeritus Ismael Rolon talked about justice in Paraguay. TPP Coordinator Dr. Eduardo Escobar also spoke before Archbishop Rolon. Dr. Alberto Varessini explained why he had decided to represent the defendants and Attorney Margarita de Capurro, who is acting as prosecutor, immediately gave a long account of the crimes against humanity committed in Paraguay throughout its entire history of unscrupulous rulers.

The victims of torture, exile, confinement, and undue imprisonment during the administration of the overthrown regime later presented themselves through the prosecutor's office. Most of the victims agreed that it was not necessary to file claims of human rights violations to the courts because all the judges responsible for administering justice are left over from the dictatorial regime. [passage omitted]

Human rights violations will continue to be reported today as of 0800. The TPP session will continue in the afternoon with reports on economic crimes against the property of the people.

Rural Association Denounces Violent Land Occupations

PY2206005690 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
21 Jun 90 p 14

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the Paraguayan Rural Association [ARP] has denounced the invasion of various properties in San Pedro Department, the slaughter of animals belonging to the owners of these properties, the destruction of fields and plantations, and the possession of guns, which are being used to threaten inhabitants of the invaded properties.

The seven-point document begins by informing the farmers of the Second Department that "an orchestrated campaign for the illegal occupation of land, regardless of its extension, degree of exploitation, owner nationality, or legal status of the corresponding title deeds, has been unleashed" in that part of the country.

The communique goes on to point out that the invaders "arrive in groups of 50 to 100 people, headed by individuals who identify themselves as members of the Pastoral Society [Social Pastoral], the Friendship Mission, or political sectors." This newspaper contacted the aforementioned organizations immediately after receiving this communique at 1730. Because of the time of day, however, there was nobody at the respective offices.

Point 3 of the communique states that "the invaders shoot the animals dead and frighten farm personnel with threats and by exhibiting all kinds of weapons. They also immediately destroy the fields and plantations, and do not respect any improvements the owners have made to the land."

According to the communique, "the public authorities are completely helpless, and local authorities show no sign of being able to react to this generalized disorder, allowing the crimes to go unpunished. The judicial branch, when it has been summoned to intervene, has reacted expeditiously, immediately going to the aid of the victims. Authorities from the Government Delegation Office have not been able to carry out eviction warrants because of a shortage of personnel and materiel resources."

The fifth point of the communique states that "in view of these incidents, which represent a true social commotion, the ARP reminds farmers that the protection of private property, through suitable means to prevent its occupation, is legal and protected by law. A response, however, should be in proportion to the form of attack."

The ARP has urged farmers throughout the country to denounce any threats or actual invasions of private property. The document ends by inviting all farmers to a meeting next Saturday, 23 June, in Santani.

According to affected sources in the private and official sectors, the wave of occupations of private property has also affected the Eastern Region. One of the most affected areas was Independencia Colony, where farmed properties of less than 20 hectares have been occupied.

PLRA's Wagner on Newspaper Reappearance

PY2106160890 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 8

[Text] Today, the weekly newspaper CAMBIO AUTENTICO, which is the official mouthpiece of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], will hit the streets again after a long controversy.

Deputy Luis A. Wagner, who is acting director of the newspaper, said that the publication's main objective is to create a channel of communication between the PLRA and the citizens in order to inform them about proposals and opinions on socioeconomic and political events that are going on in the country.

Wagner added that the weekly "will deal mainly with investigations into several cases of corruptions in the country because this is one of the most serious scourges in this transition period."

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Taiwan

PY2106232090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Jun 90 p 11

[Text] One of the most significant aspects of the Paraguayan delegation's visit to Taiwan was the Fourth Conference on Sino-Paraguayan Economic Cooperation, which concluded with an accord signed by Taiwanese Economy Minister Vincent Siew [as published] and Paraguayan Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo.

The following is a summary of the conclusions made at the conference:

Cotton: The Taiwanese delegation agreed to designate a mission that will visit Paraguay between March and April 1991, during the cotton harvest, to purchase cotton without the participation of middlemen. The Paraguayan Cotton Chamber will provide further information on this matter.

Leather: The Taiwanese delegation said that it will provide technical assistance to improve the quality of Paraguayan leather and to promote development in this sector. The possibility of Taiwanese industrialists establishing a leather-processing factory will be also analyzed.

Steel: On the purchase of Paraguayan steel rods, the Taiwanese delegation said that the Paraguayan delegation that will participate in the Taipei fair in August 1990 and will include representatives of the state-owned steel enterprise should prepare steel samples so that Taiwanese businessmen can examine the quality and analyze the possibility of establishing channels for trade.

Taipei Fair: The Taiwanese delegation suggested that the Paraguayan Government make a decision in advance on the products to be exhibited at the fair, where they will be introduced to the Taiwanese market.

Investment in spinning mills and looms: The Taiwanese Government is willing to encourage Taiwanese businessmen from the textile sector to invest in Paraguay with the support of the Paraguayan Government.

Technical assistance for the industrial sector: The Taiwanese delegation agreed to send experts to Paraguay to provide technical assistance on the industrialization of the soybean and leather industries and on the management of the steel industry.

Rural Settlements: The Taiwanese delegation agreed in principle to the establishment of more than 60 settlements per year. It was also suggested that Paraguayan experts travel to Taiwan to receive training in this area.

Asparagus cultivation: The Paraguayan delegation voiced its desire for Chinese businessmen to transfer technology for the production and processing of asparagus. The Taiwanese delegation agreed to this proposal.

The Paraguayan delegation also proposed to sell beef to Taiwan and to purchase from that country spare parts for motorcycles and cars and machines for manufacturing knitted goods. It also requested Taiwanese financial assistance for the construction of 12 barges. The Paraguayan delegation expressed its wish to strengthen Sino-Paraguayan business relations, especially in the areas of joint investment for the processing of Paraguayan raw materials and the installation of electricity-intensive industries in Paraguay.

South Korean Reportage on Rodriguez Visit

WA2106151290

For South Korean reportage on Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez' three-day official visit to Seoul, including talks with South Korean President No Tae-u on expanding ties and investment, see the South Korea section of the 21 June and subsequent issues of the East Asia DAILY REPORT.

Peru

Larco Analyzes Economic Exchange With Argentina

PY2306135690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox and his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo have created a political coordination and integration commission aimed at strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries.

During the meeting held in Buenos Aires the two governments committed themselves to analyze concrete accords on trade, investments, and on the financing of common projects that will be added to those that have already been set in motion.

Larco Cox and Cavallo also discussed the implementation of an Argentine project to provide food assistance to President-elect Alberto Fujimori's administration.

President-Elect Fujimori on Aid 'Conditions'

PY2306033490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] President-elect Alberto Fujimori said tonight that he is not aware that the U.S. Government has conditioned its economic support for Peru to the fight against drug trafficking. He said that he is willing to sign the agreement with the U.S. Government without conditions. Fujimori also discussed other issues:

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I found the best disposition from the directors of the media, dailies, and magazines. I would like to reaffirm that freedom of expression will be respected.

[Unidentified reporter] U.S. Government officials have said that their government would withdraw U.S. economic aid if the Peruvian Government does not sign an agreement on drug trafficking.

[Fujimori] That is a bad interpretation of the U.S. position. The U.S. Government is more than willing to cooperate with us, especially in making the struggle against drug trafficking more effective. In yesterday's news conference with the foreign press I explained my government's position in taking advantage of this type of aid, the U.S. aid, with the restrictions, naturally, imposed by Peruvian sovereignty. I believe there is some misunderstanding that should be explained.

[Reporter] What is your position in this situation?

[Fujimori] In principle I agree with the U.S. aid. This is what I said yesterday before the opinion of Mr. Bennett was made known. I believe, and I am reiterating it now, that his opinion does not represent the feelings of the U.S. Government. It is effective aid, but it needs some changes and more study and discussion. I understand that there are absolutely no conditions from the U.S. Government.

[Reporter] Will there be any conditions from the Peruvian Government?

[Fujimori] Not at all, as long as constitutional and legal principles are respected.

[Reporter] Are you then supporting the aid that the U.S. Government may give Peru for the struggle against drug trafficking?

[Fujimori] There are very respectable aspects in that project.

[Reporter] Some local and U.S. media are questioning your trip abroad. They say that the first thing you should do is to try to stabilize the country's economy.

[Fujimori] All local media, including those we can call the opposition, have noted the favorable aspects of the trip.

[Reporter] A U.S. daily is the one who questioned your trip.

[Fujimori] It is a U.S. paper, but not a very well-known one.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] any conditions for the trip you are going to make to negotiate the foreign debt?

[Fujimori] No. We are going with the best disposition and they are waiting with open arms [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Can you confirm the resignation of Ugarteche as a member of the Change 90 economic team?

[Fujimori] I have been shut up in my office, and am therefore not aware of it. That is under the jurisdiction of Santiago Roca and his economic team. Ugarteche has been cooperating for some time in a very important way.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Fujimori] About the cabinet. This will be announced after my trip, when I return.

[Reporter] Will Luis Marchand become your foreign minister? He represented you officially in the Spanish Embassy this morning.

[Fujimori] I have several representatives, depending on the activity. He can be an ambassador, an economist, or a congressman. Marchand is an ambassador of great prestige. He is cooperating in various aspects of our government plan. [end recording]

Venezuela

President Perez on Foreign, Domestic Issues

PA2206042990 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jun 90

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez with an unidentified moderator and local and international reporters at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Moderator] Good evening. We will begin this news conference with President Carlos Andres Perez by giving the floor to Jesus Lozada Rondon of the daily EL UNIVERSAL.

[Lozada] Good evening, Mr. President. Perestroyka is facing difficulties, and the people in both the USSR and in Venezuela believe that Comrade Gorbachev is having problems with his party, the Communist Party. He has political, economic, financial, supply problems and so forth. In Venezuela, your government is also having very special and very important problems. Naturally, Gorbachev has announced he might resign. You were appointed for a five-year term. Mr. President, do you believe that perestroyka will survive here in Venezuela? [as heard]

[Perez] First of all, this is an opportunity to voice our admiration for the behavior, courage, and historical decisions of worldwide importance by Soviet President Gorbachev. Now, going into a more calm and less turbulent atmosphere like Venezuela, I must state that our country is facing difficulties and I have an obligation to confront them. We are confronting these problems with determination and courage because we are gradually achieving success in the measures we are adopting.

Naturally, as is always the case in life, the first thing one notices are the negative issues. All economic adjustments that have been made and are being made are for the purpose of correcting the serious misadjustments, the artificial aspects of the economy under which our country was living. Making corrections produces totally negative effects, and this is what we see first.

Now then, why do we correct these defects? We do this to promote a process of economic growth and of social development that will guarantee the levels of life and the tranquillity of the Venezuelans. This cannot be done overnight. Our currency was devaluated in one day, and the exchange is unified in one day. That results in a series of problems for all aspects of national life. Most affected are the industrial transformation and the agricultural transformation. In other words, we are giving a new course to investments in Venezuela. However, this cannot occur overnight but it takes several years. That is the difference.

I believe we are moving ahead. Difficulties are inevitable, because nobody likes changes. When I meet with the economic sectors here in this very same room, I tell them: You all tell me you agree with the government's measures, yet when these measures affect you, you then tell me you do not agree. When I touch your sector, you tell me you do not agree. When I touch your sector, you tell me you do not agree. [Perez repeats himself]

Well, this is the type of thing I have to confront. I give explanations, as it is done in a democracy, by showing that we are advancing on a necessary path in order to truly recover the tranquillity and future of Venezuela. This is what we are doing.

[Moderator] Let us continue. Young doctor and bachelor of journalism, Alba Sanchez of the daily EL NACIONAL, now has the floor.

[Sanchez] I have not done any graduate work, thank you.

Mr. President, I would like to follow up on the question by Lozada Rondon. Apparently, the government does not explain things well. Do you not believe that many of the difficulties you have with your party and the Venezuelan people understanding these measures have to do with the conflicts among the members of the economic cabinet? Right now, there is a lot of confusion, and I would like for you to clarify this. Will the measures on food imports be temporary or permament? Every day I ask the ministers this same question, and while one says these are permanent, another one says it is temporary, and the people....

[Perez, interrupting] Doctor, I think you are the one who is confused. [laughter] This can be very easily explained. It would be unjust if I were to make a statement here against the media for provoking these distortions among the people. We are experiencing a situation that the country has never experienced before. This leads to confusion. This is the way I understand this. Naturally, this worries me, and sometimes I get very angry, but I don't say it. [Perez laughs]

Now, what happens? What has been said about agricultural imports? It has been said that the distortion in handling agricultural imports must end. The customs technicians

refer to them as notes, they refer to note one, note two, note three, note six, and so forth. One note meant a total ban on import. Another note called for special licenses, another one called for special permits. Those were the notes that were applied to food imports. This comes to an end with a modern economic policy, with a new concept of trade exchange, and within the needs of Venezuela of opening the doors to international trade.

This is how the world moves. If you close the doors to the products of one country, that country then adopts reprisals against Venezuela by closing its doors to our country's products. The world has established a system of tariffs, and the notes banning imports are done only for certain exceptions. If we have not solved this problem when we want to join GATT, we will never join GATT and we would be the only country left out of the organiation that has established the regulations governing international trade.

In the industrial field, it was easier to do, but in the agricultural field it is very difficult because it is a field that is still very weak, it is not strong enough and it does not have the technological development necessary for that. The trend then is that in a near future—because this will be a gradual reform—all notes banning imports would then be totally eliminated and everyting would then be ruled by the tariffs.

In the meantime, there is a group of products that are basic. I wrote them down because I knew you would ask about them. These products are corn, rice, milk, sugar, wheat, animal fodder, sorghum, poultry, eggs, and the oleos that are subject to special licenses. These will be maintained for a prudent period of time, according to the development of our agricultural process.

The other agricultural products will be subject to tariffs. They will be imported, but subject to paying tariffs that are very high. In other words, they will not compete with national products if that product is locally producted. They will not be able to harm national imports.

If you establish a tariff of 50 percent on an imported product, and in addition, the currency exchange rate is at 45 bolivares to the dollar, that product has to jump a very high barrier in order to reach Venezuela. That is the situation.

Now then, what is the confusion over freely imported goods? For example, both tariffs and import restrictions will be eliminated for two months on two products such as milk and beef for special circumstances. This is an temporary import. Once this period of time is over, these products are again subject to these restrictions established for these basic products for the diet of all Venezuelans.

So there is no [word indistinct]. That is what any minister would think. That is what Democratic Action [AD] also knows. For example, several newspapers today published that there were major differences in yesterday's meeting in Miraflores Palace among the AD parliamentary bloc, the National Executive Committee [CEN], and secretaries general. First of all, we did not argue because this was a briefing. AD members asked questions, and the ministers responded. Because of the many topics to discuss, we met from 1530 to 1830. There were no arguments at all. Those reading the newspapers will say: Let us look at the face of the participants to see how many of them have bruised faces. [laughter]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct?]

[Perez] No, everything happens in the Lord's vineyard, as priests say. But we did not argue this time because this was a briefing. I offered —and this was the purpose of the meeting—to hold a meeting every month with the ministers, the AD parliamentary bloc, and secretaries general, so that the meetings are not just with CEN and the [words indistinct]. There were no arguments at all during yesterday's meeting, but concerns were voiced. One of the concerns expressed dealt with exports.

The confusion that arises is expected because reporters often gather information and report it in good faith. They say, for example, that milk exports will be allowed or that meat will be exported. This may be true, but the body of the news item states that this will be after a certain amount of time. However, the headline cannot contain all the information. That is why the people become confused. I am not making accusations or complaining. I think you are right about the need to be more specific with the information and to always—OCI [Central Information Office] director, take note—accompany our remarks with a written document, so that reporters can remember the news they hear. It does happen that a reporter cannot—nobody can—remember everthing he has heard, considering the many problems being made public.

[Moderator] Here is Jose Rojas of DIARIO DE CARACAS and Radio Capital.

[Rojas] After the decision was made to readjust the price of feul, the country became concerned that there would be a second phase to these measures. Can you guarantee that the prices of gasoline for cars will not increase this year?

[Perez] I never said that prices will not be raised. I never said that they will be raised by any amount. Because of the difficulties we are facing, this government must be very serious and reliable. The country should believe the information we give. We are committed at home and abroad to explain the prices of the products we manufacture, make, and produce. We must do so for the sake of Venezuela, not because the IMF or anybody imposes it on us. We said —and this can be confirmed—that Venezuelan Petroleum, the best company in Venezuela and one of the largest in the world, annually loses billions of Bolivares in the domestic market. The consumption per capita of fuel in Venezuela is one of the highest in the world or even the highest in the world by virtue of the very low fuel price. I cited as an example that it is cheaper for CADAFE [Electrical Administration and Development Corporation] to maintain the central plant that produces gasoline around the clock than to buy the cheap electricity from the Guri plant, because we are practically giving away that electricity and it is costing us

money. Never has the Venezuelan Government or any Venezuelan Government official said that the price of fuel will be raised to international levels. This has never been said. It has been said a progressive attempt will be made to reach the exportation price at the Venezuelan port. This is done with any product. If you ask any seller of any agricultural product—or of anything produced in Venezuela—to sell it abroad cheaper than it costs him to produce it, nobody will do so. That is inconceivable.

In any event, Venezuela has traffic problems. We use gasoline to move everywhere. We do not have railroads or anything. Therefore, we must manage the fuel prices because of our development requirements and so as not to make the competition of our products abroad impossible in light of the price of our fuel. All of that is taken into consideration. But we cannot think of selling products below the cost of what it takes to produce them.

We are committed to the country and also to the international financial system. Venezuela will be able to pay what it lends, because it is not giving away what is has. You can see the resources available to be able to pay what it lends. If a person goes to a bank and says he needs a loan of several million [currency not specified] and he is asked: What will you spend it on? He responds: I am going to travel around the world. The banker will tell him: Sir, I am not going to loan you money to travel around the world. What will you pay me with? Therefore, Venezuela has to demonstrate that it has a solid economy, that it has a serious economy and that it can borrow money because it is collecting for services and it is charging for its products at prices that permit it to pay what it owes tomorrow. That is what we have said.

Why would Venezuelans not want the price of gasoline to be increased? Because the cost of transportation will also increase. That is the reason. I do not think there is any other reason. That is to be expected regarding the price of gasoline. Now it turns out that the price of transportation, which a commission is studying—and we have said this constantly—will have to increase. A veritable transportation catastrophe is being prepared in the country. There are no collective transportation lines. There are virtually individual owners. Whenever the vehicle they have deteriorates, they will stop providing the service, because they cannot repair their bus or their vehicle at today's cost. Therefore, if we want to reconstruct the transportation service, we have to increase the price. But we also have to establish a subsidy for transportation. We must do both things at the same time. If we set the price of transportation today at what it costs, for instance, as a result of the deterioration of a bus and the costs of the spare parts, the citizens will not be able to pay it. That happens in all parts of the world. Transportation is subsidized, but the costs of transportation must be increased to stimulate entrepeneurs to enter the market of transportation and to provide good transportation to Venezuelans. That is the problem that we have to resolve now. Gasoline has a very slight influence on that, but of course, if the price of gasoline is increased at this moment, immediately the transportation owners use it as a pretext to increase the cost of transportation.

Therefore, we will handle it this way. We are conscious of what we are doing and must respond in this manner.

We also understand that it would be impossible to increase the price of fuel at the fair levels we want to arrive at, i.e., to prevent Venezuelan petroleum from losing profits from the sale of gasoline in the country. That cannot be. We have to regulate this situation so that Venezuela will not be losing on its fundamental products. That is what we have said about transportation.

[Moderator] The president is accompanied in this news conference by the minister of the secretariat, the minister of energy and mines, the minister of tourism, the minister of Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning] and Pepe Consuegras, chief of press. Now Ramon Roque of the newspaper DOSMILUNO.

[Roque] Mr. President, what will your government do to prevent the resources of the investment plan, which is one of the principal objectives of your government, from being distorted and from being used for what it is really intended? There are certain charges that some contracts are being managed around here. These are old charges.

[Perez] There is no doubt that there is much corruption in the Venezuelan public administration, but it would be unfair and it would show an inferiority complex if we Venezuelans said that we were incapable of solving these situations. Sometimes there are big scandals. We often do not know how they emerged or who was responsible for creating them.

The same thing is happening with the investment plan. There has undoubtedly been corruption in the granting of contracts. That is why I am so determined to have the law on bids be approved as soon as possible. This law is needed to discipline the granting of contracts. We currently have a set of rules, which we follow, but that is not enough. Therefore, there is no problem with the investment law because it will be clearly implemented. The allocation of funds will be clearly defined. Some funds will be used for the construction of rural roads and others for building a certain hospital or a certain road. It will all be explained so that there will be no problems.

The problem occurs when contracts are not granted fairly, when contracts are granted for political purposes. I guarantee that this will not be the case because I will take a special interest in this. I have good experience in public administration, and this will allow me to be more alert and have a greater capacity to keep this situation under control.

Now a problem has emerged. It is normal in all democracies. We must not be alarmed about the arguments that may emerge in Congress, but I would like the investment plan to be approved as soon as possible. We want congressmen to discuss it, but we hope it is approved as

soon as possible. We have been discussing the plan in February, March, April, May, and June. The discussions have lasted five months. All congresses take their time to discuss bills. There are political parties, and they all have questions, but I think the time has come.... I say it because the congressmen of all parties have the same opinion. As you can see the investment plan is already being discussed in Congress. Discussions in Congress are traditionally longer at the beginning. After the first article is approved, the discussions take a shorter time. That is why I believe the investment plan will be approved in June.

[Moderator] Marilu Palacios, from Radio Vision, will now ask a question.

[Palacios] Good evening. Various groups and political leaders have been opposed to the government's decision on agricultural imports. They say it is not true that prices will drop, and they say this import policy will not solve the problem. Another question concerns the investment plan. We know that the government is waiting for the plan to be approved so that the economy can start moving and so that it can solve problems such as the ones faced by hospitals. Doctors have their hands tied because sometimes they do not have alcohol, gauze, or equipment. It was stolen or does not work. What will happen if the investment plan is not approved until the end of the year, considering the fact that the parliamentarians are taking so long. My last question concerns the country's jails. Many cases are not handled expeditiously even though those in charge say they are working on them. That is all, Mr. President.

[Perez] That is it? You nearly took up the entire news conference for yourself. [laughs] Look, we have already cleared up the issue on imports. I think there has been a lot of confusion regarding this problem. These situations are always...[changes thought] especially in a country in which we have traditionally been accustomed to prohibiting imports. This has allowed for the development of inefficient industries in certain parts of the country and for the development of agriculture activities that are not fit for the possibilities of our climate and soil. We are going to put an end to this. Some people say that we do not need an agriculture of ports, in which agricultural products are imported and exported. I will be happy the day there is an agriculture of ports in Venezuela. I hope to see the day in which our ports can be used to export Venezuela's surplus goods and import the goods that cannot be produced in Venezuela. If we achieve this, we can have a stable agricultural balance of payments. The big countries in the world have an agriculture of ports. They import and export agricultural goods. Our ports should not only be used for imports. That is what we did at one time. We imported goods and subsidized them.

All that is over. There will be no more subsidies and imports will not affect the national production, which is what worries the farmers. You must understand that, for example, meat imports will be released at a given date but they will be subject to, I do not know, maybe a 50 percent tariff. Whoever imports the meat must pay 33....[corrects himself] 45 bolivares for $1 so it will not be able to compete with locally produced meat. Anyway, there is a limit to speculation.

What do you think we will control right now with the imports? We will control hoarding and speculation. Some people claim that the producers must be blamed because agricultural products' prices have increased here. No, sir. The producers have not raised the articles' prices; it is the middlemen who have produced a high speculation with a series of articles. This has been amply proved.

We have the...the Agriculture Ministry can give you the charts showing how much the producer charges for a product; how much the wholesale dealer pays for the product; and how much the consumer is charged. You will see that there are increases for as much as 700 percent in this chain.

Therefore...the milk...part of the milk was hoarded. Why? Because someone spread the rumor that the price of the milk would be increased to 500 bolivares. Good heavens! If the price reaches 500 bolivares we will import the milk. No, the price of milk will not go up; but the rumor was spread, panic prevailed, and the milk was hoarded. The hoarders are waiting so they can sell the milk at a higher price. We will import 20,000 tons of milk to guarantee an appropriate supply and to avoid the problem of the speculation with the milk. People cannot get any milk! The housewife says: No, this cannot be! I am willing to pay any price, provided I can get some! It is not true that there is no milk in the market.

Well, talking about the investment plan, we have already explained it. I think that the investment plan will be ready in July. That is what I have been told by leaders of the congressional factions. I see no problem in this.

Also we are doing a great job in the hospitals. Many of the existing problems have already been solved. You have no idea, for example, of the number of air conditioners that have been repaired and rendered fully operational in all the hospitals so that the operating rooms can be used. They could not be used because the air conditioners did not work. That situation has been practically solved, meaning the number of electronic medical equipment, i.e., back in service at the hospitals.

However, we still have some bottlenecks with the medicine problem. Medicine prices have undoubtedly increased tremendously. Medicine prices have increased because, unfortunately, we were not far-sighted enough—or we would have had generic medicine in Venezuela for some time. Most of the medical products are imported because they are made from raw materials that are not produced in the country—and only six or seven countries produce them.

Also, the dollar exchange rate has increased eight or tenfold so the price of medical products tends to increase in the same proportion. Consequently, we must go for a

generic medicine. This is a problem that will soon be solved and Venezuela will soon have generic medicine for certain chronic illnesses.

Now then, what was the other...ah, yes, the problem about the jails. Right? Some believe that one government will never outperform another by inaugurating jails. [Perez chuckles] This is a mistake. Jails are part of a legal system, and a democracy must guarantee—even to those who are criminals or presumed criminals—a decent place of detention that fulfills the minimum conditions. This has not been done in Venezuela and it has led to overcrowding.

We also have the problem about justice. Cases are being delayed excessively and this, in turn, delays the rulings. It is claimed that arrest warrants have been issued against only 15 percent of the people who are imprisoned in Venezuela...excuse me, I meant that they have been given a sentence. Right? In other words, they have been in prison ever since a warrant for their preventive arrest was issued. This is very serious.

We are trying to solve that problem. Unfortunately, that does not depend on us alone. However, it is a problem that we must take care of because it exists and because it is very serious.

[Moderator] Manuel Melendez from YARACUY AL DIA has the floor now.

[Melendez] Mr. President, this is a good opportunity to thank you on behalf of YARACUY AL DIA for inviting us to this news conference. I want to inform you of five problems currently affecting our state. The first one is the industrialization problem. We cannot attain economic development without industries that ensure regional prosperity and an increase in employment. The second problem is the invasion of farms. This problem causes great concern among the country's productive sectors. This problem is basically affecting Los Canizos, Palo Quemado, of which I am sure you have heard. However, the National Agrarian Institute has not said anything about this problem. This situation is causing a great deal of insecurity and uneasiness in the Yaracuy rural areas.

We also have the problem of the El Penon - Moron highway. The works have been paralyzed, and this highway is a vital route for Yaracuy and other nearby areas. There are only 40 more kilometers to build. The Yaracuy people cannot wait any longer for the completion of this construction. This is one of the most serious problems our state is facing since it is a vital road that links our state with Carabobo State, Puerto Cabello Port, and other states. Another major problem that our state is facing is the lack of potable water. The situation is critical. There is a water crisis in the entire state. Thus far, we do not see any solution to this problem. The dams are drying up.

[Perez, interrupting] And some were not taken care of.

[Melendez] Some were not taken care of. The people are concerned because they do not know what to do in view of the lack of water. Finally, we are facing environmental problems. Both the people and the state government are very concerned about this problem. The mountains have been devastated. Some rivers have dried up. The Yaracuy River may dry up because of the industries in the region.

I would also like to tell you that not one single Venezuelan president has visited Yaracuy State since April 1982. Although he promised to come several times and although he personally told me as a Yaracuy correspondent that he would visit our state, the previous president never visited Yaracuy. We considered that great disrespect for our state. I can tell you this with the authority that my job here at the Miraflores Presidential Palace confers upon me. The people of Yaracuy were unhappy about that. We have great hopes that you will visit our state.

[Perez, interrupting] Of course.

[Melendez] I hope you visit us now as you visited us during your presidential campaign. We hope that you visit us because the people of Yaracuy admire and appreciate you. Yesterday I attended a conference at the Military Circle Theater. The conference discussed the border quarrel with Colombia. People made very serious statements there. Doctor Pablo Hertz discussed the fate of the delimitation of the Gulf of Venezuela and the delimitation of Montes de Oca. He said that there is great concern about that because, in his opinion and according to the law, that area belongs to us. I am referring to the western part of Montes de Oca.

Later, I noticed that the audience had became worried. After one of the speeches was delivered, I realized the seriousness of the situation because the people did not trust the members of the binational commission that you appointed to study the border conflict and other geographic differences with Colombia.

There is an outcry of mistrust among the people because it seems that the people that you appointed are not the most suitable candidates to face such a problem at this moment. Mr. President, I would like you to give an answer both to the people of the State of Yaracuy and to all Venezuelans who are worried about the fate of the Gulf of Venezuela.

[Perez] Well, let me begin by answering the last part of your question. I sincerely regret the fact that you said you were told that Leandro Mora, Hilarion Cardozo, and Pompeya Marquez were not trustworthy individuals to handle the issue of the border conflict and that the large Venezuelan political parties which have a majority of representatives at Congress and run the country are going to betray the country. This is unimaginable.

Well, you should take that idea out of your head because this is absolutely false. Now, everyone is entitled to have his own opinion regarding this issue. However, the country must have one single opinion. To this effect, we have appointed a commission and I am now going to

appoint a presidential advising commission on the issue, where absolutely all the areas of the country will be represented. All the former presidents and the most influential men of the country will be represented. This commission will receive reports on what the Venezuelan Commission is doing.

I do not know if the gentlemen, who do not trust the three members that I appointed, will have confidence in this commission. This is very serious. We have to be true and not phony patriots. We have to defend and not harm the national interests. We are taking serious steps because this is a problem that we have and we must face. This is a bilateral problem. It is not a problem that Venezuela wants or refuses to discuss, but rather a problem between two countries. If one country wants to discuss the problem and the other one does not, we have to discuss it anyways. Therefore, this problem should not exist.

We have established our position, and the people have made their decisions. First, we have a delimitation based on the rulings and their interpretations, be they good or bad, but they are international dispositions. Since many years ago, all the democratic governments of Venezuela recognized these rulings. These are the fundamental principles for the discussions. We will discuss other issues taking into consideration the fundamental interests of the country. People must refrain from making these kind of statements because they are very serious. Thus, we had better forget what you were told.

Surely, there is more passion than reason in these statements.

[Melendez] [Words indistinct] other topic discussed-...[changes thought] there were a large number of retired high-ranking military officers, and I believe that some action will be taken on the issue. There will be large concentrations.

[Perez] I do not think so.

[Melendez] There is going to be a great deal of publicity.

[Perez] Do not worry. None of that is going to happen. Venezuelans are conscientious, rational, and respectable people. We are not going to make brusque remarks that are useless.

Regarding the visits to Yaracuy, I will visit the State of Yaracuy as I did previously when I visited all the states. This first year I have been extremely busy with all the problems you are all familiar with. I already began my trips to the rural areas. Last Thursday, 19 June, I visited (La Mesa de Guanipa), which is a very important region for the Venezuelan agrarian sector.

Contrary to what people think, that area should be [words indistinct]. People are working there and I sensed a great deal of enthusiasm there. Many things are being accomplished. Agricultural exports destined for Europe are coming out of (La Mesa de Guanipa). That area is bustling with economic activity. There are obviously worries and difficult situations that we have to resolve. For instance, at this stage in the ball game the area of Guanipa does not have electricity. Imagine such an extense region of crops with over 1 million square km without electricity. The production costs for producers are terribly high because they need electrical engines. We are immediately going to resolve this problem.

The land ownership problem is another problem we must solve immediately. It is a cause of what is happening in Yaracuy State. This year we started conducting an official land register because the land register conducted during my previous term—in which we spent millions of bolivares—was filed away at the National Agrarian Institute and is outdated. We used aerial photographies for that official land register. We took pictures of the 30 million hectares located north of the Orinoco River. All that is outdated. Now we have to start all over again with that work, which costs so much money. But we are working on that problem already.

Environmental problems are one of my government's main concerns as it was for the previous government. The Environment and Natural Resources Ministry is already developing an overall policy to deal with environmental problems in Venezuela. The ministry has published a pamphlet containing all the norms and policies that Venezuela is developing in the field of environmental protection. These policies have the support and praise of all international organizations concerned with environmental issues.

Industrialization is necessary, but that is not done by decree. Industrialization involves a process like the one we are conducting. We are opening up to foreign investment. We are attracting foreign capital, and we are bringing back capital into our country. We are promoting foreign investment very openly. For example, my most recent trips to Spain and Italy have opened up extraordinary opportunities for us not only because of the agreements made to guarantee and give trust to foreign investment, but also because of the financing of industrial development activities in Venezuela. These activities will be supported with Italian and Spanish money. We also obtained resources to encourage private Italian and Spanish investment in Venezuela. These investments will strengthen our industrialization process.

The water problem, which you mentioned earlier, is a very serious problem. Water is an extremely serious problem, but we have failed to attach any importance to it. That whole plan to build regional water works, which we devised during my previous term, was paralyzed. We are now implementing it again. Look at the situation in Yaracuy, Carabobo, and Aragua States. We built the first phase of the Paocachinche Water System that comes from Cojedes State. The second phase was started and then postponed. It is only now that we have resumed the second phase of that system. It takes three or four years to complete this phase. Meanhile, there is a lack of water in the region.

The same thing goes for Yaracuy State. During my previous term, we built a series of dams that guaranteed water supplies for Yaracuy State. When I visited Yaracuy during my election campaign, I felt bad when I saw some of those dams. I do not remember their names now.

[Melendez, interrupting] Cumaripa Dam.

[Perez] That is right. I felt very bad when I saw the Cumaripa Dam. That dam was completely useless. Now we must start over again to resume water services in Yaracuy and to create systems and methods so that what happened to the Cumaripa Dam and to other dams does not happen again.

Once the investment plan is completed, we will resume the construction of that highway in Yaracuy because we will have resources to do so.

[Melendez] Thank you very much.

[Moderator] Luisa Garcia from the newspaper REPORTE has the floor.

[Garcia] Good evening, Mr. President, do you agree with the proposal presented by Eduardo Fernandez to extend the Venezuelan presidential term to six years beginning with this presidential term? Do you feel that there is true support for the reform and implementation of your economic polices from your party and from your party faction in Congress?

[Perez] COPEI [Social Christian Party] Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez presented me that proposal. He told me that he supported the approval of that constitutional amendment. Neither I nor the Deniocratic Action Party gave him an answer on this. You must take that into account. My opinion in this regard is very well-known. I favor presidential reelection and not because I was reelected but because this is the rule in all countries in the world. Not having a reelection is the exception to the rule. It seems that it is neither fair nor suitable for a country to eliminate the possibility of reelection of a president who has offered his country stability and development possibilities. The choice not to have a reelection appeared in our countries because of a fear of dictatorships. Leaders never described themselves as dictators during their first presidential period. They always waited until the second presidential period to consolidate themselves and then declare themselves dictators. Obviously, that is not the case now, because I am not a leader. [Perez and reporters laugh] But this is the truth. Dr. Eduardo Fernandez' thesis is to add one year to the Venezuelan presidential term—not during my term but starting with the next presidential term.

[Garcia, interrupting] No, he said starting from this presidential term.

[Perez] No, he has proposed that this be in effect as of the next term. Even if he tempted me with that additional year...[Perez laughs] because this is based on non-reelection. I sincerely believe that non-reelection is not the best thing for a country. This is evident in Europe, in many countries, where it is advisable that a head of state stay in office for an additional period of time if his work is satisfactory for the country.

In that case, it should specify there will be non-reelection of the parties. After all, it is not the individuals but the parties who can last several terms. This is something worthy of being discussed, and the stand of Dr. (?Hernandez) is worthy of being discussed and respected. As for...what was the other question?

[Garcia] If you have received full support from the parties....

[Perez, interrupting] I have not felt full support from anyone. As I told you earlier, when I sit down with the economic leaders of the country, they say they agree with the measures. However, when a specific sector is asked, that sector then says it does not agree with the measures that have been taken for that sector.

Naturally, I have the support of the country. It would be impossible to rule in a democracy without support. It is not that there is lack of support, but rather lack of patience and the normal worries that there are. Now, not only do I observe things and talk to the people, I meet with all sectors—such as the industrial, business, service sectors—and but I also read polls. I know the people basically trust these policies.

The same goes for my party. Naturally, there are some doubts and discussions about certain aspects of the economic policies being carried out by my government. However, there is a basic agreement as for the objectives of the policies I am carrying out.

This is the way it must be. Nobody likes difficulties. If I invite people to a party, everybody attends. However, if I invite people to accompany me to a television program where I am going to explain some difficult measures, people say they are sick, out of town, and so forth. Well, we must understand that when I was elected president of the republic, I was committed to my people. I cannot win a false popularity contest in order to please people and sink the country.

Naturally, when I speak in this categorical manner, I am not saying we will not make mistakes or that we have not made mistakes at a given time. That is why we must be flexible in order to correct things at a given moment. One thing I am sure of is that the guidelines of our policy are the legitimate and just ones. I have always said that so far, absolutely no one in Venezuela—not even the most staunch critics of our policies—have presented an alternate method for what had to be done in Venezuela.

[Moderator] Luis Alfredo Gomez, correspondent of Radio Rumbos and the daily EL IMPULSO of Barquisimeto, now has the floor.

[Gomez] Good evening, Mr. President. Undoubtedly, the crisis in the country is serious.

Recently, the attorney general of the Republic said there is not a state of law in Venezuela. The president of the Supreme Court of Justice has propoosed capital punishment for corrupt people, and apparently there are many of those running around and left unpunished. In the social field, hospital care is critical; it is very grave. Salaries do not compensate for the high cost of living. The government is now importing goods in view of the evident inability to fight the speculators.

My question, Mr. President, is how can Venezuelans harbor any hopes in the future based on this outlook? My second question....

[Perez, interrupting] You have another question? [laughs]

[Gomez] Yes, I have a second question. What will happen to the foreign debt of the private sector, given that an agreement has been signed with the Central Bank of Venezuela for guaranteeing dollars at 7.50 bolivares?

There is also an economic and financial reality of the country that seems to put the country between the devil and the deep blue sea because everything seems to indicate that the state is not in a capacity to fulfill these committments contemplated in that agreement.

[Perez] Everything you have said is very interesting. There is a word which you used in the beginning, and you should not forget it. You said there is a crisis prevailing in the country. That is how we must talk. We must not forget that we are facing a crisis. Barely four or five months ago no one could open a newspaper without seeing many columns dedicated to the foreign debt. They stated that the country would not be able to cope; that the negotiations were failing; that the foreign debt could not possibly be renegotiated; and that Venezuela would not be able to get the same conditions as Mexico.

No one talks about the foreign debt today, and many people believe that the crisis is over. That is not true. We have solved one of the essential aspects of the crisis-...[corrects himself] we have begun to solve one of the essential aspects of the crisis, but the crisis still prevails. All Venezuelans must understand that the measures have been adopted precisely because we are facing a crisis. We must recover the country's health and give the economy a regular course that allows us to achieve the welfare of all the Venezuelan people.

This is what all the Venezuelan people must realize, and this is the point I want to make through the press, the radio, and the television. We must think about this. We must not think that we have solved all the problems because the foreign debt problem has been solved. We have only begun to solve that problem. This has been an important achievement. It is one of the steps...there were bets that we would not be able to come out well. This is proof of the courage, capability, and perseverance with which the whole government has been working to solve our problems.

Public debates always tend to generalize things. When the prosecutor general of the Republic talks about a de jure state he is right, but we cannot take those words literally. The de jure state is afflicted by many flaws. For example, a person cannot possibly commit a crime, be sent to jail, and have a term specified by the law —after the judge confirms the arrest warrant or releases the prisoner—expire without a judge doing what he should. Many crimes would go unpunished. All these are problems of an extremely weak de jure state that must be strengthened. We should not be alarmed by this, and we should not throw ourselves from the top floor of a building to avoid worrying about this situation.

As for the hospitals, they have been disastrous. However, if you go to a hospital today you will have to admit that we are trying to recover this health system for the Venezuelans—and we will do so. I am sure that the press will not mention the hospitals in Venezuela a year from now. Pay attention to this challenge. No one will talk about the hospitals in Venezuela one year from now. You will see.

As for the salary problems, I have already said that adjustment measures should be immediately adopted, but the solutions based on those adjustments should last a long time. The unification of the exchange rate created an increase in prices at every level given Venezuela's dependence on imports. This caused a major problem with the salaries and wages in the country. Salaries and wages in Venezuela have been increased twice yet they are still below the required levels. The demands for increases continue in the negotiations for new labor contracts.

If we were to make an overall adjustment of salaries, everything would collapse and inflation would be catastrophic. Therefore, these are some of the sacrifices that the country has to live with at this phase, but we are simultaneously adopting compensation measures. They might not actually solve the problem, but at least they will diminish the effects of the measures.

We have had to resort to imports. Those are resources that every modern state has at its disposal. This should not be seen as a negative thing but as proof that we are using all the resources and measures at our disposal to normalize the country's overall economic situation.

I have clearly explained importing these products two products. Look at this, it has also been said: How can we account for this contradiction. Venezuela says it has no foreign exchange and now it is importing meat, thus spending more foreign exchange? We have established a balance between the country's international reserves and its need of imports. We are concerned because in the first quarter of the year we did not import as much as we should have. Imports were extremely low, and this means the pace of the economy has not picked up as we expected —and we are seeking to revitalize the economy with the investment plan.

Now we have over $4 billion in operational reserves. It is a crime that while the economy of the country does not

reactivate, or construction and other industrial or agricultural activities are not expanded we should be storing that money in the Central Bank. We must establish a balance, not just save foreign exchange. The state must ensure it will not be without foreign exchange. That is the first thing we did. When we took over the government, we had $300 million in operational foreign exchange. The first thing we did was to create this.

We did not spend the amount of foreign exchange that should have been spent in imports, within a more regulated process of economic growth. Today a newspaper says that the IMF is concerned because Venezuela's deficit will be over 70 billion [currency not specified]. That is a lie. That is totally false. In the past three months, there was no deficit, but a surplus. We estimate a two-percent deficit in the GNP, or a little over two percent, as a possibility for this year, because we cannot make an total adjustment.

Last year, the big tragedy was because of adjustments; the fiscal deficit went from eight or nine percent to 2.7 percent. This was an excessive adjustment that was reflected in a drop in the GNP and the problems Venezuelans experienced. We hope to keep the deficit at roughly 2 percent. We have no problems with the IMF. You mentioned a very serious problem, the private debt. Indeed, the Venezuelan state, through the Central Bank, assured private debtors they could pay their debt at a rate of 7.50 bolivares to the dollar. If we were to accept that, that would entail a catastrophe. The state would have to spend 300 billion to meet this commitment.

But, we cannot ignore this commitment because, according to Central Bank ruling, this is not the same thing as a letter of credit. We have signed contracts between the Central Bank and private debtors. However, there are formulas, and we are seeking and studying them. On this matter, we have heard rumors of infighting among the ministers. A newspaper reported that Central Bank Manager Pedro Tinoco and Coordination and Planning Minister Miguel Rodriguez were at odds, with one saying the debt had to be paid to the last penny and the other against it. Not even the debt holders could responsibly tell the country that the 7.50 rate had to be recognized in full.

There has been no disagreement. In fact, the two people whose jobs and missions are to find a solution to the problem are Rodriguez and Tinoco. We are advancing by common agreement in this respect.

We still do not have the solution, but we are searching for it. There are many of these private debtors who have paid their debt with big discounts. If this could be proven, in some cases, that debt would not be serviced. We will see if that is possible, if it has happened. We do know about big enterprises such as Caracas Electricity, for instance, which has not paid a single cent of the debt. The state must assist in resolving this problem according to the existing commitments. There are many methods now. For instance, if one obtained a discount for the external foreign debt, all the more reason why one should get an even larger discount for the external private debt. Therefore, this is a problem that is on the way to being solved. The state cannot sacrifice its interests for this problem. But neither can we disregard the commitment the state has acquired. In jest here, I would cite those who said that I used to say: Neither this nor that, but all the contrary. [laughs] No, this is really a serious problem. But with the cooperation of the private sector and also with the cooperation of the international banks we are seeking a neat way out of this situation, which will liberate the government from the immense economic sacrifice, from the impossible economic sacrifice it had to make to pay cent by cent this debt at 7.50 bolivares.

[Moderator] Continuing this news conference, we will now allow Coromoto Alvarez of ULTIMAS NOTICIAS to ask a question.

[Alvarez] Mr. President, with the rapprochement of the big nations of the West toward East Europe, after Bush's talks with Gorbachev, and considering the efforts that Felipe Gonzalez and you have made for the reintegration of Cuba into the Latin American community, what are the prospects of commercial relations between Cuba and this community being expanded? Another question. In view of the drop in the price of oil, is a presidential summit contemplated? [Perez] [laughs] Is this a sworn statement? [laughs] The truth is that we have to feel quite satisfied and optimistic about the results of the Bush-Gorbachev summit, because the conclusions of that summit cannot be but that the solution of the problems of confrontation between the East and West have been confirmed. The world is ridding itself of this frightful nightmare of the possibility of a world war and a nuclear holocaust. In the future funds will be released for development and the welfare of mankind. Therefore, we must feel definitely satisfied about the results of that summit. It will all be for the benefit of the Third World countries and the developing countries, such as Venezuela. The regional conflicts will tend to disappear gradually. Those are clear conclusions that specifically benefit our country.

I have been promoting the summit meeting of the OPEC long before I became president of the Republic. You may remember the visit I made, as soon as I was chosen president-elect in December 1988, to all the Gulf countries. It certainly was one of the most positive visits I have ever made, because this visit and the agreements reached with the different presidents of the Gulf had plenty to do with the immediate stabilization of the price of petroleum. Now we are trying to have the summit held this year because it is a necessary summit. The OPEC countries have reached a general agreement. What we have not done is to define a specific date. But you mentioned something that is important. There is no doubt that there has been a drop in the price of petroleum. This is something that must be of concern to us, because oil is one of the pillars on which Venezuela bases its economic recovery. I repeat, however, that these are

signs that confirm everyday that we must not place our possibilities of development and welfare exclusively on petroleum.

Therefore, we must be happy because during the first quarter of this year nonpetroleum exports had already reached $1.5 billion. In other words, what we did not export in one year...we are almost certain that this year our non-traditional exports will surpass $4 billion, which is a little less than half our oil exports. This is very important, and also confirms the success of our economic plan.

If oil prices continue to drop, it could become a serious problem for our country. Therefore, we are now conducting efforts through meetings of the OPEC Followup Committee. The OPEC secretary general is very busy at this time touring the Gulf contries.

In August, as suggested by me, four OPEC ministers met in Kuala Lumpur. Those are the trips that President Perez makes for pleasure, right? The presidents of Indonesia, Nigeria, Algeria, and Venezuela met in Kuala Lumpur and agreed that our four foreign ministers will tour the Gulf contries—the OPEC-member countries—in August to seek an agreement for a summit of OPEC-member countries. That summit is very important, because it will permit the heads of state to make decisions on fundamental aspects concerning the OPEC's future policy.

Gentlemen, unless there is something important....

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Perez] Oh, the concerted efforts. I think my subconscious has betrayed me. [laughter]

[Reporter] I would like to add that today's press reported that Fidel Castro has asked Japan to mediate to arrange a Castro-Bush meeting.

[Perez] Everybody knows that in Latin America, not only in Venezuela, we are very concerned—a concern that stems from our logical solidarity with a country in our region as Cuba—about the situation that this country could face as a result of the political changes in the world.

Spanish Prime Minsister Felipe Gonzalez and I held a very cordial and broad meeting with President Fidel Castro on the occasion of the inauguration of Brazilian President Collor de Mello. We discussed all those problems. We are confident and hopeful that we will open the path for Cuba's reincorporation into the Latin American system. We are doing this, because we have confidence in Fidel Castro's intelligence and leadership. Although we have been very distant and separated due to his ideas—because we are democrats, while he has defended the Communist thesis—despite our ideological differences we know that he is a very important leader who has great experience, who has always shown the necessary interest in joining what is necessary and mandatory among our contries: the concert of Latin American nations.

Therefore, we are confident that this will occur. At the OAS I proposed that the organization should resume its role in the region and should try to become an instrument for mediation between the United States and Cuba to end this 30-year confrontation. However, for this to happen, we need to see positive signals from Havana and Washington, as we cannot do anything against their will. That is the situation.

On the other problem. Undoutedly, I am not disclosing any secret when I say that within the AD, as in most political parties in Venezuela, there are difficulties, because we have not realized that this is not a crisis affecting the Venezuelan economy alone, that Venezuela is living an historical, structural crisis, a crisis resulting from the great development the country has experienced. Despite the defects, omissions, and errors committed during these 31 years of democracy, the country has changed.

Venezuelan society today is much better than it was 30 years ago. The country has made great changes. Its intellectuals, its professionals, its technicians, and the presence of Venezuelans in world universities have contributed to the deep changes in Venezuelan society. It appears that institutions and political parties are not up to date with the great changes that have taken place in the country. We are experiencing an institutional crisis because of our growth. Political parties must overlook their current situation to solve their problems. Their problems lie in the election of a board of directors or in a specific topic, but these are minor details and they are not the real crisis experienced by the country's political organizations. The situation is difficult.

My situation is complex. I cannot ignore the crisis experienced by the party, but the respect I must have for my party prevents me from getting involved in such a manner that I may become a negative or abusive influence over Democratic Action. That is why I am holding talks with party leaders at a national and regional level. I am trying to find a solution to the problem. No one is absolutely right. No one can say here: I am the one who is completely right.

This is a situation in which we must combine a series of factors. If we want to have an organization, we must forget about most of our personal interests so that we can reach a concensus, which is what a political party needs. I am working on this. It is my duty to do so because even though I have the duty to rule over all Venezuelans, I cannot ignore the obligations that adversely affect me personally or the life and future of my party.

I will take advantage of this opportunity to tell all my comrades to use their conscience and good sense. All party militants should look at the party's situation from a historical point of view. They should look at the importance of our party to the lives of the Venezuelan people.

Suriname

Prefect Lacroix Meets With Shankar, Bouterse

FL2206211290 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The prefect of French Guiana, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, yesterday ended a lightning visit to Suriname. The visit took place at the invitation of Regional Development Minister Werner Ureedzaam.

During his stay in Suriname, Lacroix held talks with President Ramsewak Shankar and the Government Crisis Team. He also had a meeting with the minister of regional development. The government has not yet given any details on these talks. The prefect, who was accompanied by the French military attache, the director of this Cabinet, [words indistinct] on his request, also had a meeting with Army Commander Desi Bouterse. During this meeting, the return of Surinamese refugees in French Guiana and the improvement of relations between both countries were discussed. According to a spokesman of the Military Authority, there was also an open and heartfelt exchange of ideas for the successful completion of the peace process.

The French delegation led by prefect Lacroix yesterday returned to French Guiana.

Police Arrest Leader of Splinter Rebel Group

FL2206212290 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The police in Paramaribo yesterday arrested (Cornelius Myasi), one of the leaders of the so-called (Anguilla) Group. (Myasi) calls himself colonel and, together with (Gutman), forms the leadership of the splinter group of the Jungle Commando. This fifth illegal armed group in Suriname came into the news one month ago following armed clashes with members of the Jungle Commando in the Brokopondo area.

It appears that (Myasi) is an escaped prisoner who has been sentenced to eight years in jail. At the time of his arrest, (Myasi) was in possession of an unlicensed automatic rifle. According to police spokesman (Van Vayader), (Myasi) will have to continue his prison term on top of which he will be charged with being in possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Trade Union Action Against Government Called

FL2206205190 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] All air and waterways to and from Suriname will be closed from Monday next [25 June] as part of the nationwide trade union action. This was disclosed yesterday during a meeting of members of Council of Trade Union Federations in Suriname, Ravaksur. With the action, Ravaksur wants to press the government to realize its six demands taken from a packet which was submitted to the government a year ago. The council is demanding, among others, a clear-cut policy by the government with regard to the National Army, measures against all corruption, black market, and price hikes, and cost of living allowances for all workers.

As part of the action, ten trade unions in the transport sector will from Monday next [words indistinct] thereby crippling all entry and exit to and from Suriname by air and water. Members of the other unions affiliated to Ravaksur will from Monday coming begin work at 9 AM instead of the regular 7 AM.

Member of the Presidium of Ravaksur (Fred Van Guilder) declared that every day, the starting time for work will be advanced by one hour as long as the demands are not met. He said that exercise will continue until it eventually is transformed into a general strike. This announcement [words indistinct]. He said the workers will carry out their actions until the demands are met or until death.